

Clifton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming Christian Community driven by compassion, generosity, resilience and service to others.

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: O Love, EXHALE: reveal yourself through me.



October 25, 2026
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*Words in **BOLD** indicate the congregation reading together. Words of the worship leader are in PLAIN type. An asterisk * indicates that the congregation may stand, as you wish.*

Gathering Song GtG 392 *Jesus, We Are Here*

Jesus, we are here. Jesus, we are here.
Jesus, we are here, we are here for you.

Savior, we are here... Spirit, we are here...

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

* Call to Worship

One: Love

All: one another.

One: Love

All: because love is from God.

One: Love

All: because God is love.

One: Love

All: because God loves us.

One: Love

All: as God loves us.

One: Love

All: one another.

*Presbyterian Hymnal Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *vv 1, 3*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Prayer of Confession

One: We worship a God of love; a God of peace; a faithful God, who loves us each and every day. Confident of that loves that holds us, we can be honest about the ways we fall short of who God has claimed us to be. Let us pray.

All: Lord God, you sent Jesus to your world to wrap love in flesh; to show us how

to love one another just as you love us. Through your Holy Spirit, you surround us and embrace us; you inspire us and guide us; you challenge us to love everyone, everyday. But it is not easy. We try but we do not always get it right. We try to love, often in our own way and not your way. We give up on people too easily and walk away. For the times that we have failed to love and allow others to love us, forgive us. Help us to love one another, help us to forgive others, just as you have forgiven us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Love, love, love. It's all we ever talk about from pulpit to pew, in song and Scripture. Love, love, love. It's all Jesus ever talks about as he heals and holds, calls and comforts, chides and challenges. Love, love, love. It's all our story is about from before time started ticking to the timeless mystery of beyond, from a call to desert wanderings to a garden bursting with life. Love, love, love. It's all God is about. And to know love, to show love, to give love, all we need is God.

All: We trust that we have been freed from fear and to live in love. Thanks be to God!

Sing Glory GtG 582 **Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share that peace with one another.

*Those in the sanctuary are invited to greet those around you.
Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.*

Cornerstone for Kids

Elder Nikki Lehman will lead the children (preschool – kindergarten, ages 3 – 6 years) through a spiritual journey of learning by listening, reading, and discussing bible stories as well as creating fun, hands-on crafts! The children will be excused from the worship service. Children are also always welcome to remain in worship.

Offering our Gifts to God

For those who would like to make a physical offering, the offering plates are available in the middle of the sanctuary. Donations can also be made online. www.cliftonpc.org

One: All we have is a gift from God. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Let us pray.

All: Generous God, accept the gifts of ourselves and of our money. May all that we have and all that we give be used to your glory and to the good work of your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination PH 339 Be Thou My Vision v.2

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

First Scripture Reading John 15:9-11 (NRSVUE)

⁹ "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete.

One: God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-21 (CEB)

⁷ Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. ¹³ This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. ¹⁵ If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. ¹⁶ We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. ¹⁷ This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but

perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! ²¹ This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

One: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Diane Walton Hendricks

Light, Truth, Love: A Sermon Series on 1 John
Love Interrupting Fear

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

***Hymn GtG 324 Open My Eyes, That I May See vv 1, 2, 4**

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

One: O Church, who is Jesus?

**All: We believe Jesus is the unseen love of God made known; a kind friend who
calls us by name and offers outstretched hands whenever there is need;
gifting us with the Holy Spirit who never leaves us.**

One: Family of faith, what is the church?

All: We believe the church is called to be a space of gentleness where you can breathe: like a clearing where you can hear the birds, feel the breeze, and smell the fresh air, away from pressure, commotion and noise. In this place of gentleness, we belong. In this place of gentleness, we can find courage to be vulnerable and honest with ourselves, God, and one another; we can offer our gifts in service of the common good; and be strengthened to bear this hope to the world.

One: People of God, what is the gospel?

All: We believe that we are compelled to share this space of gentleness to those who are alone in the world. We will listen to the needs of those who live beyond the gentleness. We will honor what they share, and respond with love, trusting God to bring out what is good. This is gospel - good news.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Minute for Ministries

Sharing Our Stories: *Name*

Ring of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 543

O Christ, Surround Me *vv 1, 4*
God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We can be reached at office@cliftonpc.org

Liturgy and Image from Spill the Beans Worship Resource

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Emily and Mark Trkula

Liturgist: Brian Cress

Prayer Notetaker: Beth Corish

Technical Team: Jim Wrightson

Nursery Volunteer: Nikki Lehman

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers:

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor | John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist | Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Kate Trussell, Preschool Director | Sue Ferguson, Director of Community Outreach and

Intergenerational Ministry | Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita