

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Holy Creator EXHALE: be my beginning and end.



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July 19, 2026
Eighth 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 399 God Welcomes All
**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

One: When we are exhausted, and what we have to carry is more than we can bear,
God says:

All: Come to me and rest.

One: When a good day's work is finished,
and we are pleased with what we have accomplished, God says:

All: Now it is time to rest.

One: When we've done all we can, and there's still so much more to do, God says:

All: Leave the rest to me.

One: When our life's work is nearly ended, and we wonder if it has been enough,
God says,

All: Well done! Come and take your rest!

***Presbyterian Hymnal 345 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, vv 3, 4**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

Prayer of Confession

One: Christ calls us to live lives in harmony with our God and our neighbors. Even our best efforts fall short. Yet our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting that abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together. Let us pray.

All: God of righteousness, we confess that we do not always live according to your commandments. Too often we bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We sometimes take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not always make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We often look the other way in the face of violence, oppression, and unjust economic practices. We fail to live as your people. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." The grace of Christ is sufficient for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

Sing Praise GtG 609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

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: Our Creator is worthy of our whole devotion; there is no one else who can meet those who are in the places of deepest need. And so we offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing ministry in God's name. Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, we bring you our worship and our praise; our good intentions to live according to your way; and our confidence that you will not stop loving us if we fail. Help us to do to the best of our ability the work entrusted to us, and then to stop, and rest, trusting you to take care of all that we have to leave undone, for you are God, and we are safe within your care. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination 322 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Reading Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSVUE)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Exodus 20:3-11 (NRSVUE)

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

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

The Ten Statements:

Practicing Being God’s Free People

Diane Walton Hendricks

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

Presbyterian Hymnal 384 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

**O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 539

We Will Go Out With Joy in the Spirit

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

Alleluia! We will go out with joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

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

Liturgy from Spill the Beans Worship Resources

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Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Emily and Mark Trkula

Liturgist: Jen Basham

Prayer Notetaker: Donna Bestebreurtje

Technical Team: Jeff Dohse

Nursery Volunteer: Lynne Coyle

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers: Peggy & Stu Cranston in honor of 4 July Cranston Family Birthdays

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