

Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World

Breath Prayer: *INHALE:* Guiding Light, *EXHALE:* Fill my life with purpose.



January 26, 2025
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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 842 **The Lord Is My Light**

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: In this world of striving, Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

**All: Jesus releases those who are captive, gives sight to the blind,
helps the oppressed, and declares the year of the Lord's favor!**

One: May we go and do likewise, offering hope to a hurting world.

All: And may it all begin with our worship of God.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 461**

God Is Here!, vv. 1, 4

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.**

**Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.**

**Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

Drawing Near to God's Grace

One: In our day-to-day lives, we sin in a multitude of ways — by what we have done and what we have left undone. Confession allows us to unburden ourselves and lay before God our stark humanity. Let us offer our prayer, knowing that God is merciful and offers forgiveness to all who turn to God.

All: Gracious God, we are far from the people you have called us to be. We are mired in self-centeredness, seeing things only in terms of how they relate to us and our happiness. Turn our hearts, bent as they are towards ourselves, out to the world around us. Make us more concerned with others, with their welfare and happiness, leaving our own concerns to you, O God. Forgive us for our many mistakes and make us anew we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news! God's promise to forgive is sure and everlasting. Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God for such grace!

Sing Glory PH 580

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

The Peace of Christ

One: Just as our worth as humans is not dependent on the bottom line of our bank accounts, our relationships are not dependent upon the earning of favors and the limitations of “quid pro quo.” The peace of Christ has no limits, and we get more just by giving it. So may jar-fulls of peace be with you today.

All: And also with you.

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: All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from God. Let us in turn offer our gifts to God’s work in the world. Let us share what we have.

All: Gracious God, whose love is so extravagant, we dedicate these gifts to you. May they go to share your love and care with the world. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Presbyterian Hymnal 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 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (NRSVUE)

¹ All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.... ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground... ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or

weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

We Got This!

Rev. Tara Spubler-McCabe

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Presbyterian Hymnal 391

Live Into Hope *vv. 1, 3, 4*

**Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

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.

WE ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Minute for Ministries

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 543 O Christ, Surround Me

**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

Prayers and liturgy adapted from Dr. Marcia McFee | Worship Design Studio | worshipdesignstudio.com/SixStoneJars
and Rev. Tara Bulger | The Presbyterian Outlook | pres-outlook.org.
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: Susan and Greg Ferguson

Deacon Note Taker: Barbara Brown

Liturgist: Jim Petersen

Guest Preacher: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

Technical Team: Jen Basham

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers Donated by: Open

We welcome to our pulpit Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe. Tara serves at National Capital Presbytery office as Director for Congregational Development and Mission. She coordinates with leaders throughout the 103 churches of NCP in areas of congregational vitality, community engagement, and spiritual formation. She has lived and served in the DMV for over 25 years with congregations, schools, and community organizations. When she is not serving churches you will find Tara and her family volunteering with the Arlington County Fair!

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor | John Kim, Music Director
Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist | Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator
Kate Trussell, Preschool Director | Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita

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