

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



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

5th 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 the sanctuary, God, the Holy One, whose glory fills the whole earth, calls us.

All: Beside the sea, along ordinary paths, in our daily work, God calls us.

One: We respond with our whole heart, singing God's praise and giving thanks.

All: In steadfast love, God fulfills the divine purposes for our lives.

One: Let us worship our God whose grace overflows.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 426 Jesus Calls Us, vv. 1, 4**

**Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

Drawing Near to God's Grace

One: Let us draw near to the One who created and redeemed us, confident of God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

All: God of Transformation, we come to you today, weary from fishing on the same old side of the boat, frustrated that the tools we have often fail to yield the results we desire. In the midst of our striving, remind us that we can choose new ways of doing things, to shift our perspective so that we may see the rich blessings you have in store, if only we know where to look. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: The promise is this: God is faithful and steadfast, eager to forgive our sin and welcome us home. Believe in this good news.

All: We trust in God's grace in Jesus, who sets us free to live in love.

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.

Cornerstone for Kids

Elder Nikki Lehmann 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: Through Jesus Christ we have come to know the abundance of God. Let us give generously, as has been given to us.

All: Holy One, we give you thanks for your generosity to us. Bless our gifts and multiply them, for the sake of those in need around us; in Jesus' name. 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 Hebrews 10:19-25 (MSG)

¹⁹⁻²¹ So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body.

²²⁻²⁵ So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading John 21:1-14 (CEB)

¹Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus^[a]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two other disciples were together. ³Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing."

They said, "We'll go with you." They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus.

⁵Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"

They answered him, "No."

⁶He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards.

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you've just caught." ¹¹Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn't torn, even with so many fish. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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

Inventive Love

Rev. Brian Clark

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presbyterian Hymnal #361

How Firm a Foundation *vv 1, 2, 5*

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

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 Feasting of the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. WJK: Louisville. 2012.
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

We welcome to our pulpit Rev. Brian Clark. Brian serves as Director of the Missional Incubator for National Capital Presbytery, after a long tenure as organizing pastor and co-pastor of Riverside Presbyterian Church. Brian was a key visionary for a missional facility that would serve the community, not just the congregation. After intentionally not building a traditional church facility on an empty 5 acre lot, Brian helped to lead the Riverside congregation to enter into a business partnership, ultimately opening Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, and leasing space that provides ongoing income so that those who donate to Riverside Church donate to mission and ministry, not a building. In addition, he has experience redeveloping a rural church facility into a multipurpose facility that hosted everything from volleyball to the high school prom. After years of coaching church planters and entrepreneurial leaders, Brian is focusing this season of his ministry to equipping a new generation of leaders for missional entrepreneurship to better engage our postmodern culture with the gospel.

Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Mark Lorey and Peggy Cranston

Deacon Note Taker: Evan Gass

Liturgist: Phil Squair

Technical Team: Stu Cranston

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers Donated by: Janet Buhler

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.