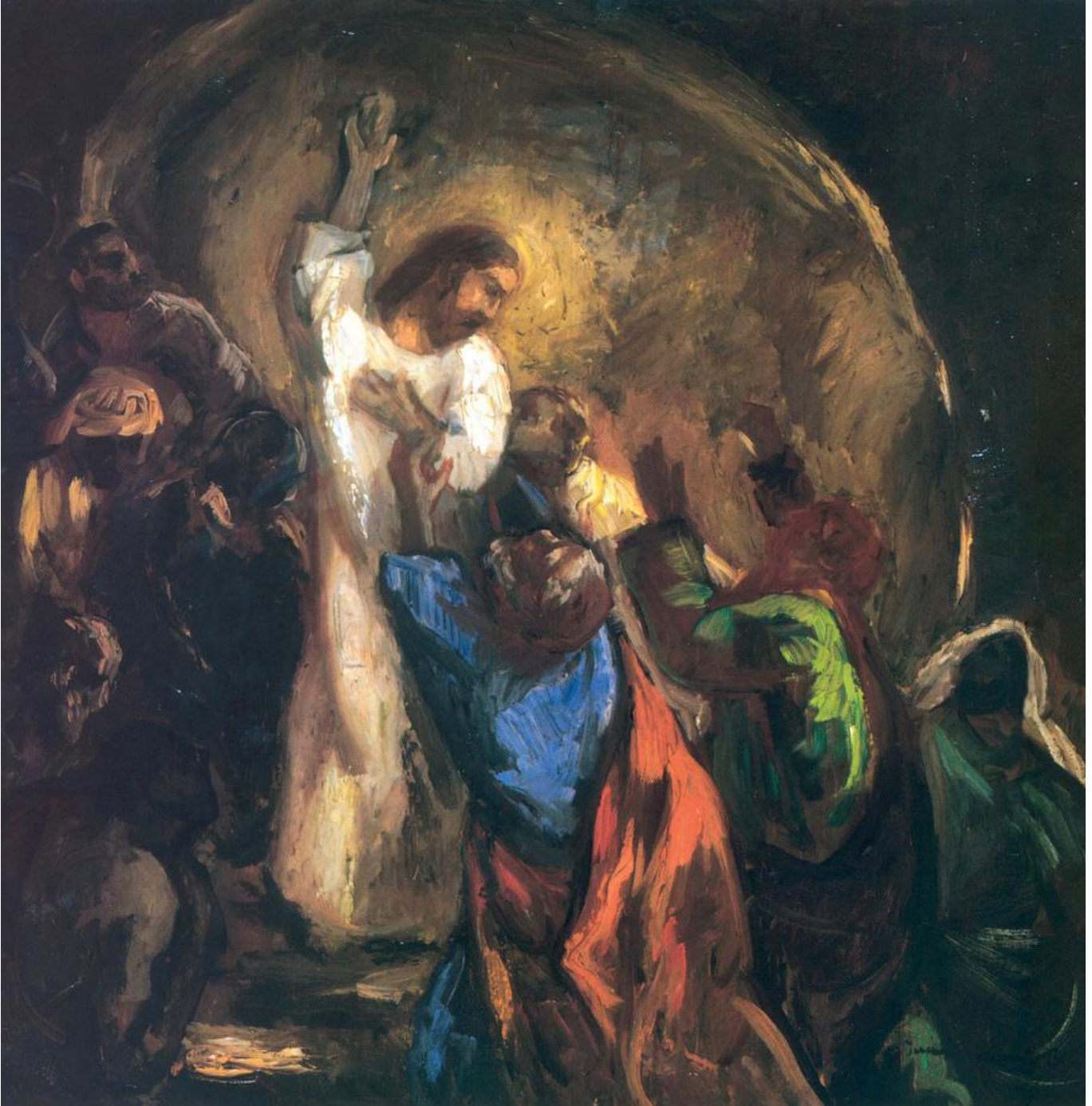


**Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**  
*Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World*

April 27, 2025  
Second Sunday of Easter



Thomas Touches Christ's Side by Béla Iványi-Grünwald  
From Art in the Christian Tradition of Vanderbilt University

## **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 243**

#### **Be Not Afraid**

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy!**

**Christ is risen, alleluia!**

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy!**

**Christ is risen, alleluia!**

### **Time of Prayer and Care**

#### **Prelude**

#### **\* Call to Worship**

One: Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

**All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**

One: Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

**All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**

One: Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**

#### **\*Presbyterian Hymnal 108**

#### **Christ Is Alive!**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**

**The cross stands empty to the sky.**

**Let streets and homes with praises ring.**

**Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

One: Christ is risen. Yet we often act as if he is still in the tomb. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ. Let us pray.

**All: Savior God, You have overcome the powers of death, yet we continue to live in fear. You show up in our lives, yet we fail to notice you. We expect more when you have already given us enough. Forgive our fear. Forgive our lack of devotion. Forgive our lack of gratitude. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.**

#### **Assurance of God's Grace**

One: The risen Jesus came and stood among [the disciples] and said, 'Peace be with you'" (John 20:19). Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ's peace.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

## Sing Praise Presbyterian Hymnal 123

**Jesus Christ is Risen Today *vv 4***  
**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**  
**praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!**  
**Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!**  
**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

### The Peace of Christ

**One:** In the resurrection of Jesus, hope overcomes despair, life vanquishes death, and peace triumphs over violence. The peace of Christ that holds us gives us courage to be peacemakers in this world of division. Let us share that peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**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](http://www.cliftonpc.org)*

**One:** Christ is alive and offers us abundant life. In gratitude, we return what we can, as tokens of ourselves, confident that God can and will use our gifts and our lives to bring about the work of God's coming new day. Let us pray.

**All: Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. Accept our offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**                      **Come and Fill Our Hearts (sung two times)**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**Alleluia!**

### First Reading Psalm 150 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup>Praise God in his sanctuary!

Praise God in his fortress, the sky!

<sup>2</sup> Praise God in his mighty acts!

Praise God as suits his incredible greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise God with the blast of the ram's horn!

Praise God with lute and lyre!

<sup>4</sup> Praise God with drum and dance!

Praise God with strings and pipe!  
<sup>5</sup> Praise God with loud cymbals!  
Praise God with clashing cymbals!  
<sup>6</sup> Let every living thing praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD!

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

**All: Amen.**

## **Anthem**

### **Second Reading John 20:19-31 (CEB)**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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**

**Further Up, Further In**

*Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

Presbyterian Hymnal 106 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name**

**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 Presbyterian Hymnal 111**

**Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing  
Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We can be reached at [office@cliftonpc.org](mailto:office@cliftonpc.org)*

Some liturgy from Carol Holbrook Prickett or Teri Ott and the *Presbyterian Outlook*.

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:** Sue and Greg Ferguson

**Liturgist:** Ashley Bybee

**Technical Team:** Jim Wrightson

**Mission Elder:** Kimberly Davis

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Pete Coughlan in Memory of his wife, Nancy

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Mary McKey in Memory of her mother, Dean Graham

### **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.