

**Order of Service at the United Reformed Church**  
**October 4, 2026 9:30 am**  
**World Communion Sunday**

## APPROACHING GOD

Prelude                  In Christ There Is No East Or West                  arr. Kunick  
                                   *(In observance of World Communion Sunday)*

Word for 2026: **Practice.**  
**People:** *May we practice becoming.*

Salutation  
Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

Call to Worship  
Christ calls us from many places,  
many stories, many experiences,  
and gathers us as one body.  
**We come because the table belongs to Christ,  
and Christ has made room for us.**  
We come not because we always agree,  
not because we always understand one another,  
but because God's love is greater than what divides us.  
**Teach us to stand where you stand,  
to love as you love,  
and to follow where you lead.**  
Across nations and neighborhoods,  
languages and cultures,  
the people of God gather today.  
**There is room at the table.**  
**Let us worship God.**

\*Opening Hymn (Blue Book #468) Be Thou My Vision

**Call to Confession**  
Sometimes it is easier to recognize what is wrong in someone else than to examine the spirit moving within us. Yet Jesus calls us not only to follow, but to follow in his way. Trusting the mercy of God, let us confess where our lives have failed to reflect the love we proclaim.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
**Merciful God, we confess that sometimes we want you to take our side more than we want to stand on yours. We have allowed difference to become division, disagreement to become contempt, and disappointment to become justification for withholding love. We confess the times we have wanted judgment for others and grace for ourselves. Forgive us when we have followed Jesus without practicing the way of Jesus. Examine our hearts. Check our spirits. Release us from whatever keeps us from loving our neighbors, receiving one another, and following you faithfully. Make us one—not because we are the same, but because we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)**

**Words of Assurance**  
Hear the good news: The Christ who rebukes what destroys is also the Christ who restores what is broken. Grace is greater than our division. Mercy is greater than our failure. And there is still room for us at Christ's table. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled. In Jesus Christ, we are made one.**  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace  
The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hymn of Preparation (Projection) | We Are Marching in the Light of God |
| <i>*Please remain seating</i>    |                                     |
| Prayer for Illumination          |                                     |
| Scripture Reading                | Luke 9:51-62                        |

**The Word of God, for the People of God!  
Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

## RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory      We've a Story to Tell to the Nations      arr. Craig Curry  
(We've a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right. A story truth and mercy, a story of peace and light. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright. And Christ's great kingdom shall come to earth, the kingdom of love and light.)

\*Doxology      Tune (Old Hundreth)  
\*Prayer of Dedication  
\*Affirmation of Faith

Communion Hymn (Red LUYH Book #835)      One Bread, One Body  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Communion Prayer, Prayers of The People, and The Lord's Prayer

### Announcements

\*Closing Hymn (Blue Book #685)      In Christ There Is No East or West  
\*Benediction

Postlude      Hark My Soul, Be Still      Malan  
**Our Invitation**

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to stand.* Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

**Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM**

**Church Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM**

#### Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines      [pastorlillianhines@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlillianhines@gmail.com)

Director of Music: Jeffrey Kunick

Office Administrator: Kimberly Rembis      [urc352@verizon.net](mailto:urc352@verizon.net)

Church Phone: 973/365-1666

Pastor's Cell Phone: 609/248-0494

Website: [www.unitedreformedchurchofclifton.org](http://www.unitedreformedchurchofclifton.org)



United Reformed Church  
352 Clifton Avenue/Clifton, NJ 07011

celebrates



*Multiply them, O Lord, and use them to build  
your kingdom of justice, peace, and belonging*