

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
February 1, 2026 9:30 a.m.

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude *Andantino (Interlude)* Chauver
(A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone)

Word for 2026: **Practice.**
People: *May we practice becoming. (Pause. Breathe. Begin worship.)*

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

Call to Worship
Come, all who are weary—
not only from labor,
but from carrying what never should have been normal.
We come longing for rest that restores.
Come, all who have been told,
“That’s just how it is.”
**We come trusting that God can interrupt
what we thought could not change.**
Come, for Jesus is still revealing
what has always been true.
We are ready to see.

*Opening Hymn (#264 Red LUYH Book) Lift High The Cross

Call to Confession
Holy and Living God, we confess that we have learned how to live with harm. We have adjusted to what bent people down. We have accepted delay as wisdom. We have called silence peace. What should have troubled us became familiar. So we come now—not to defend ourselves, but to tell the truth.

Prayer of Confession
God of mercy, we confess that our practices have not always reflected Your heart. We have repeated what was familiar instead of what was faithful. We have protected routines instead of people. We have watched suffering and told ourselves it was not our place to interrupt. Forgive us for confusing order with holiness, and patience with love. Unbind us—from fear, from habit, from anything that keeps us from choosing life. Form us again into a people who practice freedom. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance
Hear the good news: God does not accept “That’s just how it is.” In Jesus, what is bent is lifted, what is bound is released, and what has been normalized is named and healed. You are forgiven. You are freed. You are being formed anew.
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 (#581 Red LUYH Book) Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Please Remain Seated

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading **Luke 6:1–11 & 13: 10–17**
The Word of God, for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!
Sermon When Jesus Interrupts “That’s Just How It Is”

RESPONDING TO GOD

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

Communion Hymn (#166 Red Praise Book) We Remember You (Sung Twice)
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Communion Prayer, Prayers of The People (Insert) and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (#123 Blue Book) When We All Get To Heaven

*Benediction

Postlude *Every Year the Christ Child Comes to Earth* setting: Beck

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

Director of Music: Jeffrey Kunick

Office Administrator: Kimberly Rembis urc352@verizon.net

Church Phone: 973/365-1666

Pastor's Cell Phone: 609/248-0494

Website: www.unitedreformedchurchofclifton.org

