

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
October 25, 2026 9:30 am

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude Lento Rinck

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

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

Call to Worship
God has called us to a life of faith, purpose, and perseverance.
We come to worship, ready to be renewed for the journey ahead.
The road may be long, the challenges may be great, but we do not travel alone.
God strengthens our steps and sustains us along the way.
We are not called to run someone else's race, but to be faithful to the calling placed before us.
With courage, discipline, and hope, we press toward the goal.
Come, let us worship the One who gives us strength for the journey!
We will run with purpose, walk in faith, and trust God with every step!

*Opening Hymn (Blue Book #528) God of Grace and God of Glory

Call to Confession
The Apostle Paul reminds us that living faithfully requires intention, discipline, and perseverance. Yet, there are times when we lose focus, become distracted, or grow weary of doing what is right. Sometimes we seek the reward without embracing the responsibility of the journey. Other times, we become so concerned with our own progress that we forget those running alongside us. Let us come before God with honesty, trusting that grace meets us wherever we are.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Faithful and gracious God, You have called us to live with purpose, yet too often we move through life without intention. We become distracted by things that do

not matter, discouraged by obstacles we encounter, and impatient when the journey takes longer than expected. Forgive us when we measure our progress against others rather than attending to our own calling. Forgive us when we choose comfort over commitment, convenience over compassion, and recognition over service. We confess that we sometimes grow weary of practicing what we profess. Renew our strength, redirect our attention, and restore our willingness to live faithfully. Teach us that discipline is not punishment, perseverance is not perfection, and faithfulness is not a competition. Help us to run with purpose, serve with humility, and love without reservation. Through Jesus Christ, who shows us the way. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance
Hear the good news! God's grace is not a prize reserved for those who finish first. It is a gift that sustains us, strengthens us, and invites us to begin again. Our failures do not disqualify us from God's love, and our weariness does not place us beyond God's care. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and empowered to continue the journey. Thanks be to God! We will keep the faith and continue the race.
Amen!

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

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Preparation (Red LUYH Book #749) Spirit of the Living God
*Please remain seating
Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 9: 9-27

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

Sermon Running the Race

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory "Jesus Shall Reign" by John Hatton, arranged by Stan Pethel
*Doxology Tune (Old Hundreth)
*Prayer of Dedication
*Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (Insert)

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

*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

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



United Reformed Church
Sunday Worship

October 25, 2026