

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude *The Lord's My Shepherd, All My Need* tune: "Evan," arr. Martin
 *(The Lord's My Shepherd, all my need will surely be supplied;
by quiet streams and through green fields the Lord will be my guide.)
(A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone)*

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

We know what we saw.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Let's Tell the Truth This Time. We don't always believe it right away. Sometimes peace feels like a ghost. Sometimes joy feels like too much. But Jesus keeps showing up—wounds and all. Let us tell the truth this time—about our fear, our silence, and the ways we've stayed quiet even when we knew better. Let us confess—so the story can keep going.

Jesus, You showed up in the room—and we still doubted. You stood with scars—and we still hesitated. You spoke peace—and we still clung to fear. We confess: We've seen too much to pretend otherwise. We've heard too much to stay quiet. Still—we've stayed in hiding. Forgive us for withholding our testimony. Restore our memory. And make us witnesses again. Amen.

(a moment for silent confession)

Thanks be to God.

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

setting: S. Schultz

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: Tue, Thurs, and Fri 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines pastorlillianhines@gmail.com

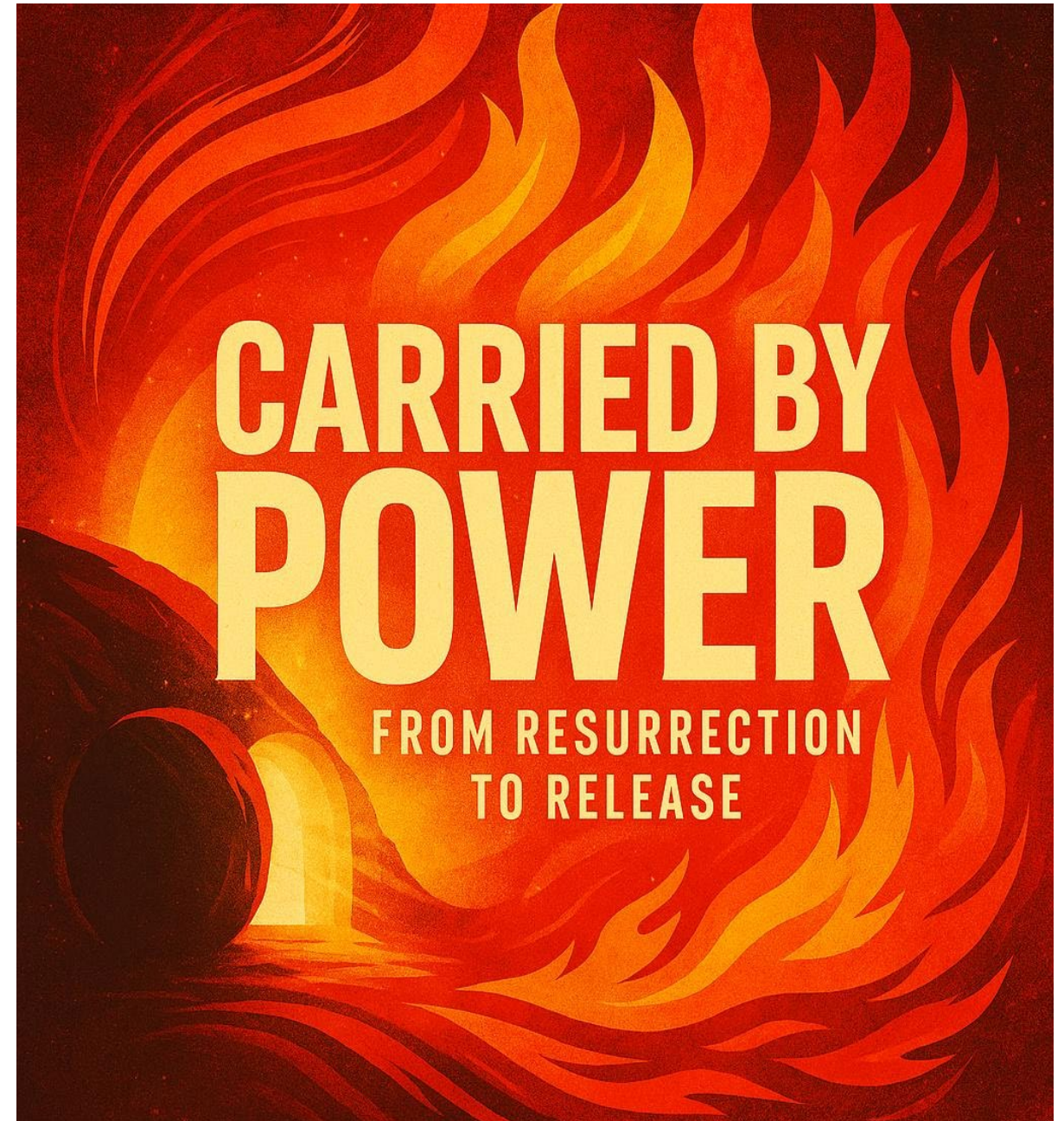
Director of Music: Jeffrey Kunick

Office Administrator: Kimberly Rembis urc352@verizon.net

Church Phone: 973/365-1666

Pastor's Cell Phone: 609/248-0494

Website: www.unitedreformedchurchofclifton.org



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Belhar Confession)

We believe

- **that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;**
- **that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**
- **that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**
- **that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;**
- **that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right**
- **that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;**
- **that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.**