

Claremont-Lafayette United Presbyterian Church

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WWW.CLAREMONTLAFAYETTE.COM



“Serving the Lord Jesus by loving, comforting, nurturing, and teaching the Word which provides hope to all people.”

Communion Sunday

2nd Sunday in Lent

11:00am

March 1, 2026



Ruling Elders:

Joyce Soto & Alice Taylor (Co-Clerks of Session)

Elaine Foster, Carol Kelly, Sheila Myers, Nokeima Ramirez, Bernadette Robinson

Deacon Board:

Pamela Brown & Gerri Gaines (Co-Moderators),

Warren Tex Green, Cheryl Hayes, Delando Myers, April Venable

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

Enter, Praise, Worship and Glorify GOD, the Creator,
Redeemer, and Sustainer of Our Lives

Order of Worship

Musical Prelude "I Surrender All"
..... CeCe Winans

Call to Worship (Please stand; Read responsively)

..... Elder Melinda Hunt

Come, people of God, come as you are — weary
or hopeful, searching or certain.

God calls us together in love.

**We come to worship the Lord, our Creator and
Redeemer.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

We gather to lift our voices and open our hearts to God.

God has been our refuge through every season — our strength in times of trouble and our joy in times of peace.

We come trusting in God's mercy and grace.

Let us lay aside distraction, fear, and division, and turn our hearts toward the One who makes us whole.

We come to worship in spirit and in truth.

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer (Please stand and say in unison)

..... Elder Melinda Hunt

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of this new day and for gathering us together in Your presence. Quiet our hearts, focus our minds, and open our spirits to Your Word. Fill this place with Your peace, Your truth, and Your love, that all we do and say may honor You. Strengthen us to worship with sincerity and to serve with joy. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. **AMEN**

Opening Hymn (Please stand) Carlton Pearson

..... “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”

Call to Confession (Please stand)

..... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Friends, we come not to hide our sin, but to lay it before the One whose mercy is deeper than our shame. In Christ, God meets us with compassion and calls us to new life. Let us come before God in a spirit of confession.

Prayer of Confession (Please stand and say in unison)

..... Elder Melinda Hunt

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from Your ways. We have spoken when we should have listened and remained silent when we should have spoken truth. We have sought our own comfort over the needs of others. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts toward You, that we may walk in

Your light and live as Your people.
Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Choral Response “Never”
..... Corey Prather and High Praize

(Time of Silence for Personal Confession)

Declaration of God’s Forgiveness (Please stand)
..... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.
"You are accepted, you are welcomed, you are
washed clean, you are set free in the love of
Jesus Christ."

Exhortation (Please stand) ... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

****Ritual of Fellowship.....**

Greet your neighbor with the sign of Peace.

“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”

Response “And also with you.”

Recognition of Visitors

Announcements

Old Testament Scripture..... Psalm 19:12-14
(Pew Bible Pg. 472) Elder Melinda Hunt

New Testament Scripture 2 Timothy 1:13-14
(Pew Bible Pg. 199) Elder Melinda Hunt

Musical Selection “Words”
..... Donald Lawrence

Sermon Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.
..... “May the Words of My Mouth”

Call to Discipleship (Please stand)
..... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Invitational Hymn “Only a Look at Jesus”
..... Trinity Gospel

Service of Installation and Ordination of Officers Class 2026 - 2028

In the office of Deacon: Beverly Torres

In the Office of Elder: Vandora Fair
Cheryl Lawrence-Hayes
Yvonne White

Celebration of the Holy Communion

- “Let Us Break Bread Together”
- “In Remembrance of Me”
- “There is Power in the Blood”
- “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical).....Hymnal Page 15

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right

hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI (Please stand)

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.” **Amen.**



Worship God with Our Gifts:

Tithes: Bring your tithes to the Lord...

Thank you for your faithful giving to the Ministry of Christ. Please bring your offering in person or send to the church: PO Box 4392; Jersey City, NJ 07304. You can also send electronically from your phone via Givelify.

1st Offering – Weekly Giving (General Operating)

2nd Offering – Deacon Board

Doxology (Please stand)

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son,

and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Closing Remarks

Closing Hymn.....“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”
..... Carlson Pearson

The Charge (Please stand)

..... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

As you leave this place this day, may God’s love sustain you, and may you love those who surround you. May God’s Spirit empower you, and may you empower all those you meet. May God’s joy fill your hearts and may this joy overflow to the ends of the earth for God’s glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Benediction (Please stand)

..... Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Go out into God's world, loving as you have been loved, forgiving as you have been forgiven and healing as you have been healed.

For you I am praying, for you I am praying, for you I am praying, I'm praying for you.

March 2026 Birthdays

Webster Smith, 3/8

Curtis Suber, 3/9

Samantha Minor, 3/11

Geraldine Goss, 3/11

Denaia Taylor, 3/25

Thomas Soto, 3/30

March 2026 Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Tyrone and Robin Brown, 3/2

Special Prayers For:

LaShay Anderson, The family of Arianna and Felipe Aponte, Stephanie Arana, Patrick Atkinson, Deacon Pamela Brown, Helen Burke, Denise

Campbell, Gabriella Carrasco, the family of Jerome Carter, James Charles on the passing of his wife, Jonathen Cooper, Kebra Cooper, Keisha Cypress-Bryant, Elder Vandora Fair, Elder Elaine Foster, Deacon Warren (Tex) Green, Monica Jackson, Charlie & Craig Jones, Jackie Knights, Deacon Eva Minor, Cary Mitchell, Elder Sheila Myers, Angela D. Barber-Parker, the family of Elder Nokeima Ramirez, Ramon, Willie Mae Robinson, Francis Rondatella and family, Charles Rutledge, June Burr Scott, Nydia Serrano, Charles Simmons, Ivan Smith, the families of Mahaley Stewart Bowles and Mary Taylor Stewart, Carol Turnerto, Ajene Washington, Barbara Washington, Deacon Yvonne White, and Thelma K. Williams.

It is with deepest regrets and sorrow; we advise the heavenly transition of Elder Nokeima Ramirez on Monday, February 23, 2026. We pray for the comfort of Adam and her brother Ricky and ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. We will advise service details as they are known.

Announcements

- If you know of anyone who you'd like to add to our prayer list or have a praise report for someone who can be removed from the prayer list, please visit our website and complete the prayer request form. You may also share this

information with Elders Alice Taylor or Melinda Hunt.

- **Coffee Hour** - We will celebrate February and March birthdays and anniversaries today following morning worship service with cake and ice cream. We invite you to stay and celebrate with us.
- **2026** Per Capita Apportionment is \$37.00 Per Person.
- **Christian Education Sunday School** - In person every Sunday at 11:30am during service.
- You are invited to celebrate the service and retirement of The Honorable Sheila A. Venable, Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 6:00pm. Tickets

are \$150.00 you can register and purchase your ticket at **www.ESSEXBAR.COM**

- Confirmation classes for youth ages 12 to 17 will begin Sunday, March 8 through May 24, 2026. Youth will be Confirmed Sunday, May 31, 2026.
- **Seasoned Retirees** – Will meet Wednesday, March 11, 2025, at 11:00am here at the church.
- **Power of Prayer** with Elder Sheila Myers will be 7pm Thursday, March 19, 2026. Please visit the church website www.claremontlafayette.com to access the Zoom link and enter the prayer meeting.
- **Saturday Sandwich and A Prayer** will be March 21, 2026, set-up begins at 10:00am; 12:00pm prayers and food distribution.

- We invite you back next week:
 - **Our speaker will be:** Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Crook
 - **Worship Leader:** Elder Alice Taylor

Save The Date

- Women's Day is April 19, 2026, please invite your friends to come and celebrate this day with you and us.

Notes

Ordination and Installation

Moderator:

Ruling elders and deacons are called by God through the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ. We look to them as examples of lives ever surrendered to God, who seek to live obedient lives which give Him glory.

Ruling elders exercise leadership, discernment, and governance in the church.

Deacons lead the congregation in ministries of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in Christ's ministry to those who are in need.

Together these officers, Deacons and Elders, along with the Minister of Word and Sacrament, are commissioned to empower our assembly in its God-Given mission to be a catalyst of change in our community and to reach humanity with the message of the Gospel of Christ.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates come forward.

Moderator:

We present the following persons to be ordained and/or installed as ruling elders and deacons of this congregation.

Beverly Torres

Deacon

Cheryl Lawrence

Elder

Yvonne White

Elder

Vandora Fair

Elder

PROMISES BY THE OFFICERS

My sisters in Christ, please sincerely respond the following questions:

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

All Officers: We do!

- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

All Officers: We do!

- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church?

All Officers: We do!

- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

All Officers: We do!

- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline?
Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

All Officers: We do!

- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

All Officers: We do!

g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

All Officers: We do!

h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

All Officers: We do!

(Deacons) Will you faithfully serve as a deacon, showing Christ's compassion to those in need, and leading the church in service and witness?

Deacon: I will!

(Elders) Will you faithfully serve as a ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service?

Elders: I will!

ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONGREGATION

Moderator:

- a. Do we, the members of this church, accept these persons as ruling Elders, and a Deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do!

- b. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect them and their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Congregation: We do!

ORDINATION OF OFFICERS

(Candidates kneel or stand as appropriate)

Prayer of Ordination and Laying of Hands

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your steadfast faithfulness and for the calling of your people to serve in your church. Pour out your

Holy Spirit upon these your servants. Give them wisdom, courage, patience, and love, that they may serve you faithfully, care for your people compassionately, and lead with humility and joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To be Ordained as Ruling Elders:

Cheryl Lawrence

Yvonne White

To be Re-installed as a Ruling Elder:

Vandora Fair

To be Re-installed as a Deacon:

Beverly Torres

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Church, I declare you ordained and installed as ruling elders and deacons in this congregation. May God bless you and equip you for faithful service.

CHARGE

To the Newly Ordained and Installed:

Remember always who you are and whose you are. Serve not for honor, but in love; not for power, but in faithfulness; not alone, but as members of the body of Christ.

To the Congregation:

Support these leaders with prayer, encouragement, and partnership, that together you may bear witness to the gospel in word and deed.

CLOSING PRAYER (In Unison)

Almighty and everlasting God may Your anointing rest upon these Your Deacons and Elders in Your church. Grant them ever-increasing wisdom, courage, discernment, and compassion as they execute Your will and serve this congregation.

Create in all of us pure hearts, O God, and renew within us a steadfast spirit. Restore within us the joy of Your salvation and grant us a willing spirit to

sustain us. May Your Holy Spirit reign upon us, the body of Christ at Claremont Lafayette United Presbyterian Church, that we all may continue to seek to execute Your will in this present age. Enable us by Your grace, In Your name we pray.
Amen.

Liturgy for Presbytery Celebrations of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the

resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged, and comforted, welcomed, and saved.

He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world.

Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from suffering and sin. You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and a common cup, make us one in Christ Jesus.

Let your Spirit empower the life we share and ignite our witness in the world. With all who have gone before us, keep us faithful to the gospel teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of the resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:
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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.