



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Third Sunday in Lent

“Repentance and Mercy”

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 23, 2025

We are a vibrant family of faith rooted in God's Word, gathering together to worship and equipped to share the love of Christ in the world.

Prelude

Opening Chant

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Purple Hymnal 423

“Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Everyone who thirsts:

People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

Leader: All who are hungry for righteousness:

People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

Leader: All who need the help of God:

People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

** Please stand if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“Immortal Invisible”

Purple Hymnal 12 (v. 1, 2, 4)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

****Invitation to Confession**

Siobhan Green

Leader: The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon.

People: Trusting in that mercy, we call upon God who is near.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you.

People: You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.

Leader: You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires.

People: Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.

Leader: Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.

People: Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life.

Leader: Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.

People: We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

**** Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace of Christ**

Leader: God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

People: Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with those gathered here and those watching from home.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Purple Hymnal 423 (v. 3)**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. Amen.

**** Please stand if you are able**

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

New Testament Reading

Luke 13:1-9

13 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

Sermon

“Repentance and Mercy”

****Response to the Sermon**

“Sometimes a Light Surprises”

Purple Hymnal 800

Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings;
it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings;
when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again
a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue
the theme of God’s salvation and find it ever new;
set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
“Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.”

It can bring with it nothing but he will bear us through;
who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people, too;
beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;
and he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear,
thou all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,
yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice;
for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

** Please stand if you are able

Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers

Rev. Richard Aylor

Leader: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given the gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Presentation of Officers

Elder Judy Jensen

To be ordained and installed as an Elder:

Heidi Smithson

To be ordained and installed as a Deacon:

Nancy Grant

Constitutional Questions

Laying on of Hands

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Purple Hymnal 215 (v. 1)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

** Please stand if you are able

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

****Closing Hymn**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Purple Hymnal 65

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

****Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Please join us for Fellowship Time in the Narthex immediately following the Worship Service. To all of our visitors, you are welcome to join us, and we look forward to getting to know you during this time.

Sunday School for Lent immediately follows the worship service.

**** Please stand if you are able**

For Pastoral Care:

Please contact Pastor Richard at 303-828-8263

A General Note regarding Financial Solicitations:

Please remember that a church leader will never directly solicit you for funds or the transfer of funds. We will only ask for your support of the church through the traditional process of filling out pledge cards and fulfilling that pledge accordingly.

Office Hours:

The Church Office is open Tuesday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Peg and Toby normally go to lunch between 12:30 and 1:00 and are back by 2:00). Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Deadlines:

The deadline for all Church Communication Publications and notifications is Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Additionally, please provide advance notice for any special projects you may have, so that time can be accurately allocated, supplies ordered, and quality and fairness can be provided for all parties concerned.

Please be aware that any items received after the deadline will go into the following week's communication publications and job tasks.

Church Officers:

Pastor – Richard Aylor
Office Administrator – Peggy Farnham (and Toby)
Director of Music – Nancy Church
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder – Worship – Christi Todd
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Heidi Smithson
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier
Elder – Administration -
Elder - Communications – Jessica Lymburner
Elder – Building & Grounds – Bob McFadden

Deacons:

Nancy Grant
Monica Rider
Marilyn Sandifer
Dianne Lebsock
Marjorie Clinton

Carla McFadden
Laura McKnight
Cherie Braun
Kelly Selva

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hyatt for helping with the tech.

*Hymnals are indicated for those that may have them at home.

Blue - "The Presbyterian Hymnal"

Red - "Songs for Praise and Worship"

Purple - "Glory to God"

Yellow - "Hymns for the Family of God"

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