



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

“The Sermon on the Plain”

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Luke 6:12-26

Pastor Richard Aylor

February 16, 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

“O God, You Are My God”

Purple Hymnal 743

“O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you’ll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: When we turn our hearts away from God and toward ourselves, putting trust in our own strength,

People: we become like a shrub in the desert, living in a parched, salty place.

Leader: When we trust in God, when our trust *is* God, we are like a tree planted by water.

People: Our roots go deep, we are ever-green; even in a drought we are not anxious, but bear fruit, full and beautiful, gifts of the God who made us.

** Please stand if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“Rejoice the Lord is King”

Purple Hymnal 363

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

(Refrain)

**Lift up your heart;
lift up your voice! Rejoice,
again I say, rejoice!**

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.

(Refrain)

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
and keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.

(Refrain)

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.

(Refrain)

****Invitation to Confession**

David Molden

Leader: The prophet Jeremiah says that God tests our minds and searches our hearts,
because the condition of mind and heart affects actions.

**People: Trusting in God's mercy, let us invite God to search us, so that God might
also lead us in the way everlasting.**

** Please stand if you are able

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding.

People: You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry; people who weep.

People: We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded.

Leader: Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice.

People: Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Leader: Because Christ has been raised from the dead, sin and death do not have the last word!

People: Our faith is not in vain! Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we are forgiven and set free to live for God and neighbor. Thanks be to God.

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**

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”

Purple Hymnal 698

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

** Please stand if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: O God, whose Word is like water to the root of the tree, let your Word now flow into us that we might flourish-bearing gospel fruit for a hungry world. In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Ministry of Music

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Performed by Amy Poole and Phyllis Pieffer

New Testament Reading

Luke 6:12-26

¹² Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Sermon

“The Sermon on the Plain”

****Response to the Sermon**

“Blest Are They”

Purple Hymnal 172 (v. 1-4)

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

(Refrain)

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you;
holy are you! Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.

(Refrain)

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.

(Refrain)

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

(Refrain)

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“Blest Are They”

Purple Hymnal 172 (v. 5)

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom shine for all to see.

(Refrain)

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you;
holy are you! Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

** 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**

“In Christ Alone” written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone, my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song,
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid,
here in the death of Christ I live, I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

** Please stand if you are able

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And all the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

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.

Please join us for the Lunch and Learn about the Pura Vida English Camp immediately following.

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.

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

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	Carla McFadden
Monica Rider	Laura McKnight
Marilyn Sandifer	Cherie Braun
Dianne Lebsock	Kelly Selva
Marjorie Clinton	

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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