



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Second Sunday of Christmas

“The Visit of the Magi”

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Richard Aylor

January 5, 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

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Purple Hymnal 108

“O, that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the savior of our race,
and the babe the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: And, we have seen his glory.

Leader: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

All: Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.

****Opening Hymn**

“What Child is This”

Purple Hymnal 145

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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

****Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: Trusting in God's love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love.

People: We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world.

Leader: We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation.

People: By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Leader: As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally.

People: By the power of God's Spirit, we forgive ourselves and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven us.

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** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Purple Hymnal 143 (v. 4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father,
Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One: come and worship,
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king

** Please stand if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Heavenly Father, Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus, filling our world with her light and life. May she also dwell within your word this day, that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us, through the One who is close to your heart, Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Ministry of Music

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

performed by Nancy Church and Phyllis Pieffer

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

“The Visit of the Magi”

****Response to Sermon** “We Three Kings of Orient Are” Purple Hymnal 151 (v. 1, 2, 5)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(Refrain)

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

(Refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

(Refrain)

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Purple Hymnal 144 (v. 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.....

Therefore, with creation we sing your praise (purple 552):

**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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith (purple 553):

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

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Amen. Amen. Amen. (purple 554):
And now let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements (Gluten-free elements are available)

Special Music during Communion

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

All: Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“What Star is This, with Beams So Bright”

Purple Hymnal 152

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
‘Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

‘Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”;
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord’s command.

While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And all the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

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.

Join us immediately following and help the Worship Committee undecorate the sanctuary and Narthex!

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of what would have been Bill and Marilyn Sandifer's 58th anniversary.

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 – Jill Green
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier
Elder – Administration & Communications –
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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