



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Third Sunday of Lent

“God Among Us”

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 8, 2026

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

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Phyllis Pieffer

****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: Christ invites us to make our home in him as he makes his home in us.

People: Let us build our homes on the rock that is Christ Jesus.

Leader: Then the storms of life will not bully us.

People: Hurricanes and floods will not destroy us.

Leader: Let the word of God dwell in us richly, in all wisdom.

People: As we love our God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

****Opening Hymn**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Purple Hymnal 81

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

****Invitation to Confession**

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Let us call upon the name of our God, who loves us with an everlasting love.

****Prayer of Confession**

God, there is no distinction between us, for we have all sinned and fallen short of your glory. We have not always kept your words in our hearts and minds, nor taught them to our children when we are at home and when we are away. Forgive us, we pray, and give us the gift of your grace, that we may be made right through our faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Leader: Take heart, God is our rock and our fortress:

People: The Holy One has stored up an abundance of goodness for those of us who take refuge in God.

Leader: So let us bless our God's steadfast love.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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: Saving God, by your Holy Spirit carry to us the meaning of your Word, a blessing that we treasure in our hearts and souls. Amen.

New Testament Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Ministry of Music

“My Savior’s Love with Amazing Grace”

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Sermon

“God Among Us”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.
Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed
be of sin the double cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone. Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“Make a Joyful Noise to God”

Purple Hymnal 54 (v. 1)

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

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**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

*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 on Sunday, March 8, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

The congregation will be meeting in person following worship on Sunday, March 8, 2026 for these purposes:

- Remembering those church members and friends who died during 2025;
- Receiving the Annual Report of Church Activities, including reports from the Pastor, Clerk of Session and the Treasurer, including financial statements as of December 31, 2025;
- Receiving information about the 2026 budget; and
- Voting on a recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of Jennie Snyder as a Deacon.

Paper copies of the Annual Report booklet, an agenda for the meeting, and the biography of the officer nominee will be available at church on Sunday, February 22 and in Friday Features beginning on Friday, February 27.

I will look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Judy Jensen, Clerk of Session

For those of you unable to attend the meeting in person, here is a link which will enable you to join us by ZOOM around 11am on March 8.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89496254953?pwd=6vRchh4ZCJmfWbr9m74JZpQkNwvQ65.1>

Meeting ID: 894 9625 4953

Passcode: 135075

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. (aside from staff lunch hours). 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 –
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Neil Snyder
Treasurer – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder at Large – Bob McFadden
Elder – Worship – Shari Gulbrandsen
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Heidi Smithson
Elder – Personnel – Michael Marks
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier
Elder – Administration – Tom Scripps
Elder - Communications – Shari Gulbrandsen
Elder – Building & Grounds – John O’Brien

Deacons:

Marilyn Sandifer
Dianne Lebsock
Marjorie Clinton

Cherie Braun
Kelly Selva
Cindy Sahli

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton 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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Liturgy and reflections are provided by Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost

** Please stand if you are able