



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

“Our Help and Our Hope”

Joel 2:23-32

Luke 18:9-14

Pastor Richard Aylor

October 26, 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

We will use the time during the Prelude music for silent prayer and meditation to prepare for the upcoming worship service. The narthex doors will be closed as Nancy begins to play the prelude music to ensure quiet time for those wishing to pray during this time. Please remain silent in the sanctuary once the music begins and the narthex doors are closed. Thank you!

****Procession of the Tartans** “Scotland the Brave”, “Highland Cathedral” Scott Beach

Tartan Blessing

On behalf of all clans represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for our heritage and pray for God’s blessing on God’s servant people in all lands. Eternal God, bless these symbols of heritage, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;

People: you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Leader: By your strength you established the mountains;

People: you are girded with might.

Leader: You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

People: Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

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

****Opening Hymn**

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Purple Hymnal 385

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the
Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with mirth,
his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our
aid he did us make; we are his folk;
he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with
joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his
name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy
is forever sure; his truth at all times
firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

****Invitation to Confession**

Siobhan Green

Leader: Even before we admit our sin, God promises to hear us with mercy. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

****Prayer of Confession**

No words can express the depth of our need or reveal the extent of our sin. But you know us completely, O God. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. You rescue us from evil and clothe us with love. Humbly, we thank you; for no words can express our gratitude for the gift of your salvation. Amen.

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

Leader: Sisters and brothers, the news is so good we can scarcely believe it:

People: God does not hold our sin against us but pours out abundant grace.

Leader: Give thanks to God and by the Spirit's power share the gospel far and near:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! 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.

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

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, amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. By your Spirit make yourself known to us through the reading and preaching of your Word, that we might be faithful witnesses in this life and joyful companions in the next, even with Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

New Testament Lesson

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Anthem

“Amazing Grace”

performed by Scott Beach

Old Testament Lesson

Joel 2:23-32

- ²³ O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
- ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.
- ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- ²⁸ Then afterward
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
- ²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.
- ³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Sermon

“Our Help and Our Hope”

****Response to Sermon**

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

Purple Hymnal 687 (v. 1-4, 6)

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Affirmation of Faith: Scots Confession

As we believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, so we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace him by true faith in Christ Jesus, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus. This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with his Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Purple Hymnal 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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** “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” Purple Hymnal 275

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

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

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Recession of the Tartans

“The Flower of Scotland”

Scott Beach

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.

According to legend, the “Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans” began in Scotland after August 1746 when Highland chiefs and clan members hid bits of forbidden tartan cloth tucked in their boots, tied around their forearms beneath their shirts, and stuffed into their hats on their way to the “kirk,” or church (more specifically, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland). At a secret cue from the priest during the service, each Highlander touched his bit o’ tartan, and the priest spoke an innocuous blessing, surreptitiously blessing the symbol of each Scotsman’s national pride and family identity.

This furtive act of rebellion spirited the Act of Proscription of 1746, in which the British Parliament attempted to control, suppress, and diffuse the power of the Scottish clans by forbidding them, among other things, from wearing “the Highland dress,” such as the kilt and any kind of tartan. Although these laws were repealed in 1782, the tradition, as legend says, of presenting the tartan during the church service for a special blessing has continued over the centuries.

The reality, of course, is less romantic, but has a pleasing ironic twist. For starters, the custom is not Scottish but Scottish-American. During the Second World War, Dr. Peter Marshall held prayer services at his church, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., to raise funds for war relief. At one of those services--usually identified as April 27, 1943, but sometimes May of 1943--Dr. Marshall gave a sermon entitled, “The Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans,” and the custom began. The funds raised went toward a mobile kitchen in--as you may have guessed--Britain. The very tradition that supposedly began as an act of rebellion against the British now supported their efforts two centuries later. After Dr. Marshall’s death, the kirkin’ moved from place to place and in 1954 was held at the Washington National Cathedral where it is still held today.

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

Tartan Banners

Following is a list of the tartan banners being presented at Church of the Hills today:

Bruce

Given by Jessica Lymburner
In honor of our families

Crawford Dress

Given by Beth Crawford Hutchison
In honor of William (Bill) Crawford
And all our Scottish ancestors
Who endured so much

Cunningham Muted

Given by Jerry and Donna Bucholz

Dunkeld Ancient

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of her Dunkeld clan ancestors

Fraser Hunting Modern

Given by Christi Todd

Fraser Hunting

Given by Vicki Kyle
In honor of our families
Fraser, Simpson, Platt, Kyle

Gordon Dress

Given by Margi Masquelier
In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Bates
And Michael Bates Masquelier

Graham of Montrose

Given by Bob and Carla McFadden
In honor of the Montrose and McFadden families

Grant Red Ancient

“Stand Fast”
Given by Nancy Grant
In loving memory of William Harrison Grant, Sr.

Gunn

Given by Douglas Putney
In loving memory of
Bruce Wood Putney

MacAlpin

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of the MacAlpin clan
Who created the country of Scotland

McNaughton

Given by Laura and Marjorie McKnight
In honor of the McKnight family

Mitchell Ancient

Given by Marilyn Sandifer
In memory of her mother's family

Mitchell Modern

Given by Dianne Lebsock
In memory of her father, Robert V. Mitchell
And all who went before him, Mo Gaol

Stewart Dress

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of her Stewart clan ancestors

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 – Nancy Church
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

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:

Nancy Grant	Carla McFadden
Marilyn Sandifer	Cherie Braun
Dianne Lebsock	Kelly Selva
Marjorie Clinton	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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