



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

“Jesus is Our Peace”

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Pastor Richard Aylor

July 21, 2024

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

“Lord, Prepare Me”

Purple Hymnal 701

"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you."

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ says, come away to a deserted place and rest a while.

People: God calls us to quiet and rest, even as we continue to minister to those in need.

****Opening Hymn**

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

Purple Hymnal 361 (v. 1, 2, 3)

O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.

Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.

** Please stand if you are able

****Invitation to Confession**

Sue Brown

Leader: Let us confess our sin, confident in God's love for us.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of green pastures, we confess that we can get so busy and distracted that we lose sight of your love and care for us.

People: We forget to live in gratitude and fail to live lives of goodness and mercy.

Leader: Forgive us, heal us, and lead us down gentle paths that restore our souls. Amen.

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

Leader: As your sister in Christ, I remind you that you have been restored to the grace of God.

People: This congregation is the feast that God has prepared for 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**

“Rain Down”

Purple Hymnal 48

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

** Please stand if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: May the reading of your Word draw near to you those of us once far off. May the hearing of your Word break down the dividing walls between us, for Jesus Christ, your living Word, is our peace. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 89:20-37

²⁰ I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
²¹ my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.
²² The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.
²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.
²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'
²⁷ I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.
²⁸ Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.
²⁹ I will establish his line forever
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.
³⁰ If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my ordinances,
³¹ if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,
³² then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with scourges,
³³ but I will not remove from him my steadfast love
or be false to my faithfulness.
³⁴ I will not violate my covenant
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
³⁵ Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.

³⁶ His line shall continue forever,
and his throne endure before me like the sun.
³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon,
an enduring witness in the skies.” *Selah*

Ministry of Music

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵ abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; ²¹ in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Sermon

“Jesus is Our Peace”

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

**For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

**So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

**O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

**For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“The Lord is God”

Purple Hymnal 63 (v. 1)

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

** 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**

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Purple Hymnal 327

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

****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 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)
Choir Director – Nancy Church (Interim)
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
Monica Rider
Marilyn Sandifer
Dianne Lebsock
Deb Powers
Marjorie Clinton

Carla McFadden
Valorie Wells
Laura McKnight

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"

Music is reprinted by permission of CCLI #1101861

AV is used by permission of CVLI #303324640

Liturgy and reflections are provided by "Feasting on the Word", Liturgies for Year B. Volume 2