



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

First Sunday of Advent

“Waiting and Preparing”

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor Richard Aylor

November 27, 2022

*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.*

**Opening Music**

Played by Nancy Church

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**Choir Introit “While we are Waiting, Come**

Red Hymnal 130 (v. 1)

**Advent Candlelighting**

Christi Todd and Mel Andrew representing Worship

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days

When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

Neither shall they learn war anymore.

(LIGHT THE CANDLE)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Pastor Richard Aylor

Leader: Let us go into the house of the Lord!

**People: Let us meet God with joy!**

Leader: God builds us up like a great city.

**People: May peace be within our walls.**

Leader: Let us seek the goodness of God;

**People: let us go into the house of the Lord!**

\*\* Please stand for all hymns if you are able

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Purple Hymnal 88 (v. 1, 2, 3)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**(Refrain)**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.

**(Refrain)**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

**(Refrain)**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Invitation to Confession**

Jerry Bucholz

Leader: This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us.

**People: Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of  
righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.**

\*\* Please stand for all hymns if you are able

## Prayer of Confession

Jerry Bucholz

Leader: O God, we are steeped in a world of violence.

**People: War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives.**

Leader: Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty.

**All: Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace.**

## Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace of Christ

Jerry Bucholz

Leader: Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

**People: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Leader: Thanks be to God!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. Alleluia!**

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**      “Prepare the Way, O Zion”      Purple Hymnal 106 (v. 1)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

\*\* Please stand for all hymns if you are able

**Prayer for Illumination**

Jerry Bucholz

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 2:1-5

Jerry Bucholz

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Come, they told me, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
Our newborn King to see, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
Our finest gifts we bring Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
To lay before the King, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
So to honor Him, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm- When we come.

Baby Jesus, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
I am a poor girl too Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
I have no gifts to bring, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
That’s fit to give our King Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
Shall I play for you, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-On my drum?

Mary nodded, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
The ox and lamb kept time, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
I played my drum for Him! Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
I played my best for Him, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm-  
Then He smiled at me, Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum-mm- me and my drum.

**New Testament Reading**

Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor Richard Aylor

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Sermon**

“Waiting and Preparing”

**\*\*Response to Sermon**

“Savior of the Nations, Come” Purple Hymnal 102 (v. 1, 2, 3)

Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

From God’s heart the Saviour speeds; back to God his pathway leads;  
out to vanquish death’s command, back to reign at God’s right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

**Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**\*\*Doxology**

“What Shall I Render to the Lord”

Purple Hymnal 655 (v. 1)

What shall I render to the Lord; what shall my offering be,  
for all the gracious benefits God hath bestowed on me?

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**All: 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.**

\*\* Please stand for all hymns if you are able

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Purple Hymnal 104

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good-will,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

**\*\*Charge and Blessing**

Pastor Richard Aylor

Leader: And the people of God say

People: **Alleluia. Amen.**

\*\* Please stand for all hymns if you are able

*Please join us for Fellowship Time immediately following the Worship Service. To all of our visitors, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you during this time.*

**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 and 12:30 and are back by 1:30). Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Please remember the deadline for Church Communication Publications is Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.**

A special thank you to Tate and 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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