



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“The Resurrection and the Life”

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:17-45

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 22, 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**

performed by Cara Camping

**\*\*Opening Chant**

“You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”

Purple Hymnal 437

“You are the Lord, giver of mercy!  
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!  
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!”

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: O mortal, can these bones live?

**People: Only the Lord God knows.**

Leader: O people, hope in the Lord.

**People: With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.**

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy”

Purple Hymnal 305

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

**(Refrain)**

**In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

**(Refrain)**

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!

**(Refrain)**

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o’er the ages long!

**(Refrain)**

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

David Molden

Leader: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

**People: Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

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

Leader: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

**People: If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness.**

Leader: And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**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.

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and  
leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**37** The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

<sup>2</sup> And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

<sup>4</sup> Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

<sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

<sup>8</sup> And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

<sup>14</sup> And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

## **Ministry of Music**

### **New Testament Lesson**

John 11:17-45

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep

there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

## Sermon

“The Resurrection and the Life”

### \*\*Response to Sermon

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Purple Hymnal 306

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
Christian love. The fellowship of  
kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne we pour our  
ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes’ our mutual  
burdens bear. And often for each  
other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us  
inward pain; but we shall still be  
joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we  
shall be free; and perfect love and  
friendship reign through all eternity.

## Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

### **\*\*Doxology**

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

Purple Hymnal 654

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

### 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**

“In the Bulb There Is A Flower”

Purple Hymnal 250

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,

**(Refrain)**

**unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,

**(Refrain)**

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

**(Refrain)**

## **\*\*Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And 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 join us for Sunday School immediately following the worship service. Pastor Richard will lead us in the study of today's scriptures.*

## **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	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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\*\* Please stand if you are able