



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

“You are the Light of the World”

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Richard Aylor

February 5, 2023

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

Played by Nancy Church

Opening Chant

Pastor Richard Aylor

“The Lord is My Light and My Salvation”

The Lord is my light, and my salvation,
of whom should I be afraid, of whom should I be afraid?

Welcome

****Call to Worship**

Pastor Richard Aylor

Leader: Let your light shine!

People: We are the salt of the earth.

Leader: Let your light shine!

People: We are the light of the world.

Leader: Let your light shine!

People: Praise the Lord for the gifts that God has given us!

Leader: Let your light shine!

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

Purple Hymnal 393

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
on you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.

On you, at earth’s creation the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.

On you, God’s people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

Invitation to Confession

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Into this space we bring our weights and burdens -

People: the things we have done or not done, said or not said.

Leader: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us lay down those burdens before God.

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

Prayer of Confession

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Patient God, it is so easy for us to miss the point.

People: We know how to perform righteousness; we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, but we care more about how we are seen than our faithfulness to you.

Leader: We show off our piousness, instead of actually sharing our food, our homes, our resources with those in the most need.

All: Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves, and teach us your way, the way that leads to justice and peace.

Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace of Christ

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Beloved, hear the good news:

People: When we cry for help, God says, "Here I am!"

Leader: When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely, longing for a closer walk with us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

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** "There is a Place of Quiet Rest" Purple Hymnal 824 (v. 1)

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

(Refrain)

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.**

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Overshadow us with your Spirit so that we may hear your Word and live as faithful disciples and covenant people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Linda LaGrange

58 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Ministry of Music "Jesus Paid It All/O Sacred Head Now Wounded" arranged by Brant Adams
Violin Solo performed by Christi Todd - Accompanied by Nancy Church

New Testament Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Richard Aylor

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon

"You are the Light of the World"

****Response to Sermon**

“Take Us As We Are, O God”

Purple Hymnal 312

Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own.
As once you chose to tell your love in human flesh and bone,
so let our lives be used to make your saving purpose known.

Bless us for your service, Lord; no power we devise
will ever give us strength enough or make us truly wise,
yet by your promise we can know the peace your grace supplies.

Break us open to disclose how brokenness can heal,
wherever broken loaves suffice to give a crowd a meal
and graves break open to release new life from death’s dread seal.

Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast,
that we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least,
until at length you call us all to your unending feast.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Doxology**

“Give Thanks”

Purple Hymnal 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, “We are strong”;
let the poor say, “We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!”

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Richard Aylor

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Special Music during Communion

Played by Nancy Church

Distribution of the Elements (The elements are gluten-free)

You are invited to come forward. Please remain six feet apart from the person in front of you. Please take the individual cups and return to your seats. You are welcome to take the elements anytime while in your seat. After the service, we ask that you please take your cups and throw them away in the trash can located in the Narthex.

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

All: Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Purple Hymnal 377

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

(Refrain)

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

(Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

(Refrain)

****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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