



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“God With Us”

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Richard Aylor

December 21, 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

performed by Cindy Riley

****Opening Chant**

“Christ, be our Light”

“Longing for light, we wait in the darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

(Refrain)

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our
light! Shine in your church gathered
today.**

Many the gifts, many the people.
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

(Refrain)

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

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

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

Ron and Phyllis Pieffer

Today we light the 4th Advent Candle: "Love"

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.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son
and shall name him Emmanuel (God is with us).

(LIGHT THE CANDLE)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

****Opening 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.

****Invitation to Confession**

David Molden

Leader: Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth,
confessing our sins to God and one another.

****Prayer of Confession**

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

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

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

Leader: “You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

People: For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives us all our sins.

Leader: You are God’s beloved, called to be saints.

People: Grace to all and peace.

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Purple Hymnal 121 (v. 4)

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

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

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Ministry of Music

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

“God With Us”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“People Look East”

Purple Hymnal 105 (v. 1)

People, look east. The time is near of the
crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are
able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

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.

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

****Closing Hymn** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” Purple Hymnal 100 (v. 1, 2, 4)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my
weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

(Refrain)

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all, you
work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

(Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we
remember who holds us fast: God’s mercy must
deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the
promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

(Refrain)

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

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

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.

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 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:

Carla McFadden	
Marilyn Sandifer	Cherie Braun
Dianne Lebsock	Kelly Selva
Marjorie Clinton	Cindy Sahli

A special thank you to Cindy Riley for being so kind as to fill in as accompanist while Nancy is in the hospital.

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”

Music is reprinted by permission of CCLI #1101861

AV is used by permission of CVLI #303324640

Liturgy and reflections are provided by Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost