



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Second Sunday of Lent

“A Blessing”

Genesis 12:1-4a

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 1, 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

“Great is the Lord”

Phyllis Pieffer

****Opening Chant**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Purple Hymnal 423

“Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

People: break forth, O mountains, in singing!

Leader: For the Lord has comforted us;

People: God has compassion on all who suffer.

Leader: Like a woman with her nursing child,

People: God holds us with compassion and gives us all we need.

****Opening Hymn**

“O God, Who Gives us Life”

Purple Hymnal 53

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

****Invitation to Confession**

Leader: The apostle Paul tells us that the only one who stands in judgment over us is God.

People: God brings hidden things to light and makes public our true hearts.

Leader: We come, then to confess our sins before God and one another, trusting in God's mercy to forgive and to restore.

****Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Merciful God, you are our judge, for you alone know us fully. You know the sins we hide from others: the unkind thought, the unspoken word of grace, the helping hand not offered. You alone know how we harbor jealousies and resentments; hoard resources for ourselves; and hold onto prejudices, judging others. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your marvelous light so that we live before others as you intend. We seek your tender mercy, for you also love us as a mother loves her little child. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

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

Leader: Friends, the God who judges us has been made known in Jesus Christ, who died for our sake.

People: The good news of the gospel is this: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.

Leader: We are held with love in God's hands.

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.

****Response to Forgiveness** “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” Purple Hymnal 423 (v. 3)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Sprit.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Your Word, O God, is too great and marvelous for us, yet it occupies us, and in it we find hope. By the gift of your Spirit, calm and quiet our souls that we may hear your Word today and be lifted up to walk with you. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

New Testament Lesson

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

⁴ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Ministry of Music

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Sermon

“A Blessing”

****Response to Sermon**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Purple Hymnal 49

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“Make a Joyful Noise to God”

Purple Hymnal 54 (v. 1)

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.....

Therefore, with creation we sing your praise (purple 552):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith (purple 553):

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Amen. Amen. Amen. (purple 554):

And now let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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

Distribution of the Elements (Gluten-free elements are available)

Special Music during Communion

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

All: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“Let All Things Now Living ”

Purple Hymnal 37

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

“How Majestic is Your Name”

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.

Sunday school is back for Lent! Pastor Richard will be leading us in a study of the scriptures he will preach on each Sunday. Lenten Sunday School will begin on Sunday, March 1 and continue through Palm Sunday. Each session will start immediately following worship. All are invited to join us!

Please Join Us on Sunday, March 8, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

The congregation will be meeting in person following worship on Sunday, March 8, 2026 for these purposes:

- Remembering those church members and friends who died during 2025;
- Receiving the Annual Report of Church Activities, including reports from the Pastor, Clerk of Session and the Treasurer, including financial statements as of December 31, 2025;
- Receiving information about the 2026 budget; and
- Voting on a recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of Jennie Snyder as a Deacon.

Paper copies of the Annual Report booklet, an agenda for the meeting, and the biography of the officer nominee will be available at church on Sunday, February 22 and in Friday Features beginning on Friday, February 27.

I will look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Judy Jensen, Clerk of Session

For those of you unable to attend the meeting in person, here is a link which will enable you to join us by ZOOM around 11am on March 8.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89496254953?pwd=6vRchh4ZCJmfWbr9m74JZpQkNwvQ65.1>

Meeting ID: 894 9625 4953

Passcode: 135075

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 Lebsack
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
Dianne Lebsock
Marjorie Clinton

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

** Please stand if you are able