



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

“Focus on Jesus”

Psalm 26:1-12

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Pastor Richard Aylor

October 6, 2024

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

Opening Chant

“The Lord is My Light and My Salvation”
(From *Psalms for All Seasons: a Complete Psalter for Worship*, 27H)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation,
of whom should I be afraid,
of whom should I be afraid.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

“A Gathering Medley”

Chancel Choir

****Opening Hymn**

“I Come with Joy”

Purple Hymnal 515 (v. 1, 2, 4)

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,
in Christ’s communion bread.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.

****Invitation to Confession**

Linda LaGrange

Leader: We have an advocate on high: Jesus Christ, who stooped down to save us from our sin, but rose in honor and glory to reign forever. Therefore, let us seek God’s grace.

** Please stand if you are able

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Loving God, you created us to live in relationship with you, to love and serve one another, and to care for all your creatures.

People: Yet, in the hardness of our hearts, we dismiss your commandments and seek to go our separate ways.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Redeem, restore, and re-create us, for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

Leader: What are we that God is Mindful of us?

People: Who are we that God should care for us?

Leader: Yet God now calls us beloved children;

People: Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers.

Leader: This is the good news of God's grace: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: 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**

“Abide with Me”

Purple Hymnal 836 (v.1)

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

** Please stand if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Lord God, as you spoke long ago through the voices of your prophets, speak to us here, speak to us now, through the power of your Spirit and the promise of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 26:1-12

- ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- ² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
- ⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.
- ⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
- ¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- ¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me and be gracious to me.
- ¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Ministry of Music

piano solo by Nancy Church

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶ But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are humans that you are mindful of them
or mortals that you care for them?

⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸ subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Sermon

“Focus on Jesus”

****Response to Sermon**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Purple Hymnal 630

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“One Bread, One Body”

Purple Hymnal 530 (Chorus only)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

** Please stand if you are able

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: O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus 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)

** Please stand if you are able

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And all 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.

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 12:30 and 1:00 and are back by 2:00). 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)
Choir Director – Nancy Church (Interim)
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder – Worship – Christi Todd
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Jill Green
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier
Elder – Administration & Communications –
Elder – Building & Grounds – Bob McFadden

Deacons:

Nancy Grant	Carla McFadden
Monica Rider	Laura McKnight
Marilyn Sandifer	
Dianne Lebsock	
Deb Powers	
Marjorie Clinton	

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hyatt 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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