



Church of the Hills

Presbyterian Church (USA)

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Kirkin' O' the Tartans

“Our Foundation”

Psalm 146:1-10

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Richard Aylor

October 27, 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**

Played by Nancy Church

**\*\*Procession of the Tartans**

Scott Beach

**Tartan Blessing**

On behalf of all clans represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for our heritage and pray for God's blessing on God's servant people in all lands. Eternal God, bless these symbols of heritage, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**Introduction of New Members**

Cherie and Terry Braun  
Hanna Holt  
Paul Rider  
David and Kelly Selva

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord has filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy.

**People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

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

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“How Firm a Foundation” Purple Hymnal 463 (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give the aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not over flow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no never forsake.”

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

Phyllis Pieffer

Leader: The God of mercy hears our cries.

**People: Let us confess our failings and needs to each other and to the one who commands us to come and be healed.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## **\*\*Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Holy God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

**People: You see our need when we are blind to it.**

Leader: You have made us to be yours.

**People: In your compassion, forgive us for our lack of faith and the harm we do to others and your earth.**

Leader: Forgive us for turning away from your will, for ignoring the cries of our neighbors, for failing to listen to what is most nourishing even for ourselves.

**People: Let our faults fall from your eyes as you open ours.**

Leader: Hear this and answer, in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

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

Leader: People of God, beloved of the Lord, the one who created you and maintains your every breath calls you to receive mercy and be forgiven.

**People: We go in peace, in the firm assurance of pardon, so that today and every day our path may be strong and free, in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.**

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.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

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.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: God of light, let your Holy Spirit come into our darkness and open our hearts, that your word may show us the blessings you intend for all creation. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 146:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.  
<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.  
<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!

\*\* Please stand if you are able

**Ministry of Music**

“Amazing Grace”

**New Testament Reading**

Mark 12:28-34

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**Sermon**

“Our Foundation”

**\*\*Response to Sermon**      “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”    Purple Hymnal 687 (v. 1-4, 6)

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

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

“Great God of Every Blessing”

Purple Hymnal 694 (v. 1)

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

### 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**

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Purple Hymnal 385

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk’ he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

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

Leader: And the people of God say

People: **Alleluia. Amen.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## Postlude

*Please join us for the Fellowship Time in the Narthex immediately following the Worship Service. To all of our visitors, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you during this time.*

According to legend, the “Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans” began in Scotland after August 1746 when Highland chiefs and clan members hid bits of forbidden tartan cloth tucked in their boots, tied around their forearms beneath their shirts, and stuffed into their hats on their way to the “kirk,” or church (more specifically, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland). At a secret cue from the priest during the service, each Highlander touched his bit o’ tartan, and the priest spoke an innocuous blessing, surreptitiously blessing the symbol of each Scotsman’s national pride and family identity.

This furtive act of rebellion spirited the Act of Proscription of 1746, in which the British Parliament attempted to control, suppress, and diffuse the power of the Scottish clans by forbidding them, among other things, from wearing “the Highland dress,” such as the kilt and any kind of tartan. Although these laws were repealed in 1782, the tradition, as legend says, of presenting the tartan during the church service for a special blessing has continued over the centuries.

The reality, of course, is less romantic, but has a pleasing ironic twist. For starters, the custom is not Scottish but Scottish-American. During the Second World War, Dr. Peter Marshall held prayer services at his church, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., to raise funds for war relief. At one of those services--usually identified as April 27, 1943, but sometimes May of 1943--Dr. Marshall gave a sermon entitled, “The Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans,” and the custom began. The funds raised went toward a mobile kitchen in--as you may have guessed--Britain. The very tradition that supposedly began as an act of rebellion against the British now supported their efforts two centuries later. After Dr. Marshall’s death, the kirkin’ moved from place to place and in 1954 was held at the Washington National Cathedral where it is still held today.



## **Tartan Banners**

Following is a list of the tartan banners being presented at Church of the Hills today:

### **Bruce**

Given by Jessica Lymburner  
In honor of our families

### **Cunningham Muted**

Given by Jerry and Donna Bucholz

### **Dunkeld Ancient**

Given by Sharon Klusman  
In honor of her Dunkeld clan ancestors

### **Fraser Hunting Modern**

Given by Christi Todd

### **Fraser Hunting**

Given by Vicki Kyle  
In honor of our families; Fraser, Simpson, Platt, Kyle

### **Gordon Dress**

Given by Margi Masquelier  
In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Bates  
And Michael Bates Masquelier

### **Graham of Montrose**

Given by Bob and Carla McFadden  
In honor of the Montrose and McFadden families

### **Grant Red Ancient**

“Stand Fast”  
Given by Nancy Grant  
In loving memory of William Harrison Grant, Sr.

### **Gunn**

Given by Douglas Putney  
In loving memory of Bruce Wood Putney

### **MacAlpin**

Given by Sharon Klusman  
In honor of the MacAlpin clan  
Who created the country of Scotland

**MacNaughton**

Given by Laura and Marjorie McKnight  
In honor of the McKnight family

**Mitchell Ancient**

Given by Marilyn Sandifer  
In honor of her mother's family

**Mitchell Modern**

Given by Dianne Lebsock  
In memory of her father, Robert V. Mitchell  
And all who went before him, Mo Gaol

**Stewart Dress**

Given by Sharon Klusman  
In honor of her Stewart clan ancestors

**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. Also, please provide advance notice for any special projects so that time can be accurately allocated and quality and fairness can be provided for all concerned. Thank you!**

**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 – Worship – Christi Todd  
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock  
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle  
Elder – Christian Education – Jill Green  
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers  
Elder – Nominating – Mike Clinton  
Elder – Administration & Communications – Shari Gulbrandsen

Deacons:

Donna Bucholz	Margaret Bailey
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”

Music is reprinted by permission of CCLI #1101861

AV is used by permission of CVLI #303324640

Liturgy and reflections are provided by Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.