



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

“Seeing as the Lord Sees”

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 15, 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 “In the Presence of Jehovah” with “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”
performed by Phyllis Pieffer

****Opening Chant** “You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy” Purple Hymnal 437

“You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!”

Welcome Pastor Richard Aylor

Moment for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing

****Call to Worship**

Leader: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now – as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

****Opening Hymn**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Purple Hymnal 32

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty
skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them
good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy
throne, while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

****Invitation to Confession**

Leader: As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil.

People: Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

****Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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

Leader: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life.

People: As God's forgiven people, we receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Leader: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

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**

“There is a Redeemer”

Purple Hymnal 443 (v. 1)

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and
leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Ministry of Music “In the Garden” performed by Christi Todd and Phyllis Pieffer

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

16 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Sermon

“Seeing as the Lord Sees”

****Response to Sermon**

“Spirit of the Living God”

Purple Hymnal 288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

(Repeat)

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

Purple Hymnal 654

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness ”

Purple Hymnal 39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

“Brethren We Have Met to Worship”

*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.*

Please join us for Sunday School immediately following the worship service. Pastor Richard will lead us in the study of today's scriptures.

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 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:

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