



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Christmas Eve Service

Psalm 96:1-13

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Richard Aylor

December 24, 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

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

Opening

“Away in a Manger”

performed by the Bell Choir and Congregation

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

Richard and Briana Aylor

Today we light the Christ Candle

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 Immanuel (God is with us).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

(LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

****Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

Purple Hymnal 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

****Prayer of Confession**

Christi Todd

All: Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age – worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

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

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

Christi Todd

Leader: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: and peace to God's people on earth.

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**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Purple Hymnal 113

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Refrain)

**Gloria
in excelsis Deo!
Gloria
in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

(Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

(Refrain)

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



Psalm Reading

Psalm 96:1-13

- O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts.
⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
 tremble before him, all the earth.
¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
 He will judge the peoples with equity."
¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
 let the sea roar and all that fills it;
¹² let the field exult and everything in it.
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³ before the LORD, for he is coming,
 for he is coming to judge the earth.
 He will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with his truth.

****Hymn**

"A La Ru"

performed by Ashley Snyder

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied exultation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders,
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Great will be his authority,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Ministry of Music “Infant Holy” performed by the Chancel Choir and Doug Brown

New Testament Reading Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19** and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Christmas Eve Meditation

****Hymn**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Purple Hymnal 119

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Call to Offering

“Carol of the Bells”

performed by the Bell Choir

Prayer of Thanksgiving

** Please stand if you are able

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye: O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the king of angels!

(Refrain)

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

(Refrain)

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Prayers of the People

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

**** Hymn**

“Silent Night, Holy Night” Purple Hymnal 122
Cindy will play through once, then the Congregation will sing

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Postlude

*Please join us for 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.*

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

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.

Deadlines:

Please remember, our policy is that the **deadline** for Church Communication Publications is **Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.** Anything not provided to the church office by this deadline will go into the **following week's** publication. 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)
Musical Director – 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
Cherie Braun
Marilyn Sandifer
Dianne Lebsock

Marjorie Clinton
Cindy Sahli
Kelly Selva

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"

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Liturgy and reflections are provided by Feasting on the Word, Year A, Volume 1, Advent through Pentecost