



Church of the Hills

“Our Help is in the Lord”

Psalm 124

Romans 8:19-23

Pastor Richard Aylor

August 23, 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

performed by Sheresa Wilbanks

****Opening Chant**

“As the Deer”

Purple Hymnal 626

“As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire,
and I long to worship you.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

People: We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One. Let us worship God.

****Opening Hymn**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

Purple Hymnal 623

I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain; I’ve got joy like a fountain;
I’ve got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean; I’ve got love like an ocean;
I’ve got love like an ocean, in my soul.

****Invitation to Confession**

Marilyn Sandifer

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

****Prayer of Confession**

Forgiving, God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Leader: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, we would now be lost in sin.

People: But it is the Lord who is on our side. And so, we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Purple Hymnal 14 (v. 1)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

(Refrain)

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift. Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word may be known. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:19-23

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Ministry of Music

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” performed by Sheresa Wilbanks

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 124

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Sermon

“Our Help is in the Lord”

****Response to Sermon**

“This is My Father’s World”

Purple Hymnal 370

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world. O, let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father’s world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Purple Hymnal 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

(Refrain)

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

(Refrain)

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

(Refrain)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

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 – Sheresa Wilbanks
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Neil Snyder
Treasurer – Christi Todd
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:

Cherie Braun

Kelly Selva

Marjorie Clinton

Nancy Alexander

Monica Rider

Cindy Sahli

Laura McKnight

Jennie Snyder

*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 2 Trinity Sunday through
Reign of Christ

** Please stand if you are able