



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“Doers of the Word”

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

James 1:17-27

Pastor Richard Aylor

September 1, 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

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

Purple Hymnal 623 (v. 1)

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

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: God has lavished us with every perfect gift from above and called us to living intimacy through the beloved one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

** Please stand if you are able

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So love he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

(Refrain)

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!**

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

****Invitation to Confession**

Jill Green

Leader: Let us confess our sins to our loving God who calls us close through our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Loving, righteous God, our hearts are defiled with the wickedness you hate.

People: You have called us to yourself, but we have gone away.

Leader: Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions.

People: Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments.

Leader: Hypocrites, we honor you with our lips while our hearts are far from you.

People: Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions; cleanse our tongues from evil words so that our worship may be pure and undefiled and we may live with you in love for others. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

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

Leader: Our generous God has given us the perfect gift of forgiveness.

People: Jesus Christ our Lord, who has liberated us from dead tradition and made us new by the living Word, filling our hearts with God's love.

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**

“Lord Speak to Me”

Purple Hymnal 722

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living
echoes of your tone. As you have sought,
so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Father of lights, there is no variation or shadow due to change in you. Let your Spirit illumine our hearts through your holy Word, turning us from the emptiness of our human traditions to the fullness of life in the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

Old Testament Reading

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

⁸ The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away,

¹¹ for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Ministry of Music

New Testament Reading

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves²⁴ in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon

“Doers of the Word”

****Response to Sermon** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” Purple Hymnal 729 (v. 1, 2, 4)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
 In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
 In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
 In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

** Please stand if you are able

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Purple Hymnal 708

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

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: Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Closing Hymn

“Oh Jesus I Have Promised”

Purple Hymnal 724

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

** 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	Valorie Wells
Marilyn Sandifer	Laura McKnight
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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