



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Third Sunday of Easter

“Their Eyes Were Opened”

Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19

Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Richard Aylor

April 19, 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

“This is My Father’s World”

performed by Phyllis Pieffer

****Opening Chant**

“Be Not Afraid”

Purple Hymnal 243

“Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is Risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

People: Alleluia!

Leader: By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

People: Alleluia!

Leader: By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

People: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

****Opening Hymn**

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” Purple Hymnal 251 (v. 1-4)
Pastor Richard will sing v. 1, the Congregation will sing 2-4)

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and
praise him, alleluia. For our redeemer
burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

(Refrain)

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death’s fearful
sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving,
alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

For three long days the grave did its worst until its
strength by God was dispersed. He who gives life did
death undergo, and in its conquest his might did show.

(Refrain)

The angel said to them, “Do not fear. You look for
Jesus who is not here. See for yourselves the
tomb is all bare. Only the grave clothes are lying there.”

(Refrain)

“Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave. He has
arisen this world to save. Jesus’ redeeming
labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won.”

(Refrain)

****Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: God judges all people impartially according to their deeds.

**People: Trusting in God’s love in Jesus Christ, we confess our sins before God and
one another.**

****Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.

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

Leader: Followers of Jesus: God has promised salvation to us, to our children and to all who are near and far.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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**

“Christ Is Alive”

Purple Hymnal 246 (v. 1)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands
empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19

- ¹ I love the LORD because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
- ² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD,
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”
- ¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD;
- ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
- ¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
- ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

Ministry of Music

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded
feet from garden tomb through darkened city
street, unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and
speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded
side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe; new
grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded
hand the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ’s body, walk and serve and
stand with the oppressed in this and every
land, till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

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

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**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Purple Hymnal 744

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

“He is Exalted”

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. (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