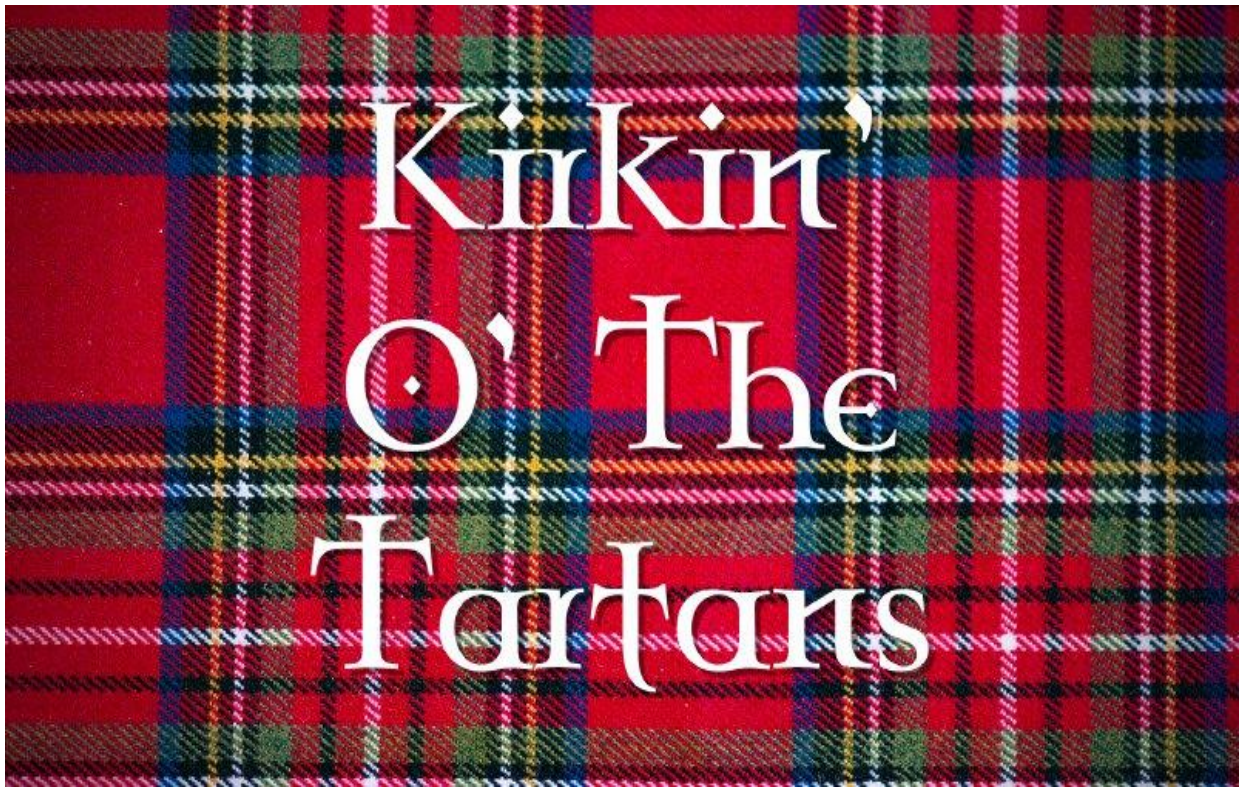




Church of the Hills

“From the Mountaintop”

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 22:34-46

Pastor Richard Aylor

October 25, 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

Sheresa Wilbanks

Processional

“Scotland the Brave, “Highland Cathedral”

Scott Beach

Tartan Blessing

On behalf of all clans represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for our heritage and pray for God’s blessing on God’s servant people in all lands. Eternal God, bless these symbols of heritage, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

People: In you, we come home – to rest, to love, to be loved. We dwell in you.

****Opening Hymn**

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Purple Hymnal 385

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the
Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with mirth,
his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our
aid he did us make; we are his folk;
he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with
joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his
name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy
is forever sure; his truth at all times
firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

****Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: Our spirits are like new grass: at the dawn they spring up fresh, but by sunset they dry up and wither, blown away in spiritual death.

People: Let us confess our frailty before our merciful God.

****Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we confess: we do not live as those worthy to be entrusted with the good news of your grace; we relate to others callously as though we do not trust that gospel ourselves; we seek to please and manipulate, using flattery to gain praise and distinction; we use condescension as a mask to cover insecurity or a need for power. Our motives are mixed, impure. Lord, reassure and cleanse us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Leader: Beloved ones, believe again the gospel, that in Christ we are accepted as we are.

People: We believe that we are forgiven, loved with the delight of a nursing mother cherishing her child.

Leader: Believe that we are the church, the body of Christ, called to love one another as gentle children of God. The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness**

“Glory Be to the Father”

Purple Hymnal 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Lord Jesus, your understanding of Scripture astonished and humbled all around you. Send your Spirit to illumine this Word that our understanding and wisdom may be increased. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?”

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Anthem

“Amazing Grace”

Scott Beach

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴ The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. ⁶ He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Sermon

“From the Mountaintop”

****Response to Sermon**

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

Purple Hymnal 801

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want’ he makes me down
to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Affirmation of Faith: Scots Confession

As we believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, so we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace him by true faith in Christ Jesus, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus. This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with his Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

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**

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Purple Hymnal 182

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Recession of the Tartans

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.

The Legend of Kirkin' O' the Tartans

According to legend, the “Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans” began in Scotland after August 1746 when Highland chiefs and clan members hid bits of forbidden tartan cloth tucked in their boots, tied around their forearms beneath their shirts, and stuffed into their hats on their way to the “kirk,” or church (more specifically, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland). At a secret cue from the priest during the service, each Highlander touched his bit o’ tartan, and the priest spoke an innocuous blessing, surreptitiously blessing the symbol of each Scotsman’s national pride and family identity.

This furtive act of rebellion spirited the Act of Proscription of 1746, in which the British Parliament attempted to control, suppress, and diffuse the power of the Scottish clans by forbidding them, among other things, from wearing “the Highland dress,” such as the kilt and any kind of tartan. Although these laws were repealed in 1782, the tradition, as legend says, of presenting the tartan during the church service for a special blessing has continued over the centuries.

The reality, of course, is less romantic, but has a pleasing ironic twist. For starters, the custom is not Scottish but Scottish-American. During the Second World War, Dr. Peter Marshall held prayer services at his church, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., to raise funds for war relief. At one of those services--usually identified as April 27, 1943, but sometimes May of 1943--Dr. Marshall gave a sermon entitled, “The Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans,” and the custom began. The funds raised went toward a mobile kitchen in--as you may have guessed--Britain. The very tradition that supposedly began as an act of rebellion against the British now supported their efforts two centuries later. After Dr. Marshall’s death, the kirkin’ moved from place to place and in 1954 was held at the Washington National Cathedral where it is still held today.

Tartan Banners

Following is a list of the tartan banners being presented at Church of the Hills today:

Bruce

Given by Jessica Lymburner
In honor of our families

Crawford Dress

Given by Beth Crawford Hutchison
In honor of William (Bill) Crawford
And all our Scottish ancestors
Who endured so much

Cunningham Muted

Given by Jerry and Donna Bucholz

Dunkeld Ancient

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of her Dunkeld clan ancestors

Fraser Hunting Modern

Given by Christi Todd

Fraser Hunting

Given by Vicki Kyle
In honor of our families
Fraser, Simpson, Platt, Kyle

Gordon Dress

Given by Margi Masquelier
In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Bates
And Michael Bates Masquelier

Graham of Montrose

Given by Bob and Carla McFadden
In honor of the Montrose and McFadden families

Grant Red Ancient

“Stand Fast”
Given by Nancy Grant
In loving memory of William Harrison Grant, Sr.

Gunn

Given by Douglas Putney
In loving memory of
Bruce Wood Putney

MacAlpin

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of the MacAlpin clan
Who created the country of Scotland

McNaughton

Given by Laura and Marjorie McKnight
In honor of the McKnight family

Mitchell Ancient

Given by Marilyn Sandifer
In memory of her mother's family

Mitchell Modern

Given by Dianne Lebsock
In memory of her father, Robert V. Mitchell
And all who went before him, Mo Gaol

Stewart Dress

Given by Sharon Klusman
In honor of her Stewart clan ancestors

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are dedicated by John O'Brien in loving memory of Karen O'Brien.

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