



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Second Sunday in Lent

“Jesus’ Lament”

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Luke 13:31-35

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 16, 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**

**Opening Chant**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Purple Hymnal 423

“Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.”

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**Moment for Mission**

Love in Action - OGHS

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The psalmist sings, one thing I asked of the LORD, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

**People: to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in God’s temple.**

Leader: God is good, and in love and mercy greets us here.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“Worship the King”

Purple Hymnal 41 (v. 1, 2, 4)

O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God’s power and God’s love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God’s might; O sing of God’s grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form;  
and bright is God’s path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

Marilyn Sandifer

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**People: With humble hearts, we confess our sins before God and one another.**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things.

**People: We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor.**

Leader: We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies.

**People: We have let our love of things dull our generosity to the needy.**

Leader: We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins.

**People: Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you.**

Leader: By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our sin-weakened bodies to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. Amen.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

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

Leader: God our light and our salvation, does not forsake us or leave us with our sin.

**People: In Christ we are forgiven and offered the gift of healing repentance.  
Thanks be to God!**

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**      “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”      Purple Hymnal 423 (v. 3)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation;  
restore to me the joy of your salvation;  
restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: Lord, open your Word by your Holy Spirit, so that we, like Abraham,  
may believe your promises to us. Amen.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

**15** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD<sup>b</sup> reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

## Ministry of Music

“Prelude in C Major by Bach”

performed by Nancy Church

## New Testament Reading

Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

**Sermon**

“Jesus’ Lament”

**\*\*Response to the Sermon**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Purple Hymnal 435

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth’s failing have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*\*Doxology**

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Purple Hymnal 215 (v. 1)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,  
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

**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.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Lover of My Soul” Purple Hymnal 440 (v. 1, 2, 4)

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past.  
Safe into the haven guide. O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee.  
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone; still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.  
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee.  
Spring thou up within my heart. Rise to all eternity.

**\*\*Charge and Blessing**

**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.*

*Sunday School for Lent immediately follows the worship service.*

**\*\* 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 12:30 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)  
Director of Music – Nancy Church  
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 – Heidi Smithson  
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers  
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier  
Elder – Administration -  
Elder - Communications – Jessica Lymburner  
Elder – Building & Grounds – Bob McFadden



Deacons:

Nancy Grant  
Monica Rider  
Marilyn Sandifer  
Dianne Lebsock  
Marjorie Clinton

Carla McFadden  
Laura McKnight  
Cherie Braun  
Kelly Selva

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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