



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

“Blessed Are You”

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Richard Aylor

February 1, 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

### \*\*Opening Chant

“My Soul is at Rest”

Purple Hymnal 843

My soul is at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from God.

## Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

### \*\*Call to Worship

Leader: What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God?

### \*\*Opening Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Purple Hymnal 643

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## **\*\*Invitation to Confession**

David Molden

Leader: Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

## **\*\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Amen.**

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

Leader: Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ, who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame.

**People: Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great; Jesus brings healing, justice and peace.**

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**

**“O Word of God Incarnate”**

Purple Hymnal 459 (v. 1)

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

**\*\* Please stand if you are able**

## Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All:** **Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.**

## Old Testament Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

**6** Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

**2** Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

**3** “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

**4** For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

**5** O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

**6** “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

**7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

**8** He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Ministry of Music**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

performed by the Choir

**New Testament Lesson**

Matthew 5:1-12

**5** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

**3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**5** “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**6** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**7** “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**8** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**10** “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon**

“Blessed Are You”

**\*\*Response to Sermon**

“Blest Are They”

Purple Hymnal 172 (v. 1, 3, 4)

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the  
kingdom of God. Blest are they,  
full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

**(Refrain)**

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you;  
holy are you! Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy  
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the  
pure of heart; they shall see God.

**(Refrain)**

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the  
children of God. Blest are they who  
suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

**(Refrain)**

### **Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

**\*\*Doxology**

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

Purple Hymnal 500

Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.

Here share with us, in love divine, your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal food.

**\*\* Please stand if you are able**

## **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.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## Words of Institution

### Distribution of the Elements (Gluten-free elements are available)

#### Special Music during Communion

“I Am the Bread of Life”

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

#### Prayer After Communion

**All: O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### \*\*Closing Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Purple Hymnal 547

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## **\*\*Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And 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.*

*The flowers today are presented in honor of Pastor Richard and the Congregation of Church of the Hills.*

## **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 – Nancy Church  
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey  
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – 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