



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

First Sunday of Lent

“The Temptations”

Genesis 2:15-17. 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Richard Aylor

February 22, 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**

“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

****Call to Worship**

Leader: God’s Spirit dwells in us,

People: for we are God’s temple.

Leader: We belong to Christ,

People: and Christ belongs to God. Praise the Lord!

****Opening Hymn**

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Purple Hymnal 165 (v. 1, 2, 4)

The glory of these forty days we
celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the
loving God who gave the law; and to Elijah,
fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

Then grant that we like them be true,
consumed in fast and prayer with you; our spirits strengthen
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

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

****Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: God declares to God's beloved, you shall be holy, for I your God am holy.
Trusting in divine mercy, we confess our faults before God and one another.

****Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, your law shows the way of righteousness, but we forsake your commandments. We have not provided for the poor or aided the disabled. We have not been truthful in our daily business; we have been unjust in our judgment of others. We have sought vengeance against our enemies; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance. By the power of your Holy Spirit, free us to live as your holy people with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Leader: Friends, God who is just and merciful reproves our sinful ways, offers the grace of repentance, and frees us to live as God's beloved children.

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**

“We Are Forgiven”

Purple Hymnal 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.
We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Lord, by the power of your Spirit reveal to us your Word. Let us be a holy temple built on Christ, our sure foundation. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Ministry of Music

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

“The Temptations”

****Response to Sermon** “Forty Days and Forty Nights” Purple Hymnal 167 (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights, tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

** Please stand if you are able

****Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

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

****Closing Hymn**

“Be Still My Soul ”

Purple Hymnal 819

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

****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 in the sanctuary today are dedicated in loving memory of Karen O'Brien.

** Please stand if you are able

Please Join Us on Sunday, March 8, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

The congregation will be meeting in person following worship on Sunday, March 8, 2026 for these purposes:

- Remembering those church members and friends who died during 2025;
- Receiving the Annual Report of Church Activities, including reports from the Pastor, Clerk of Session and the Treasurer, including financial statements as of December 31, 2025;
- Receiving information about the 2026 budget; and
- Voting on a recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of Jennie Snyder as a Deacon.

Paper copies of the Annual Report booklet, an agenda for the meeting, and the biography of the officer nominee will be available at church on Sunday, February 22 and in Friday Features beginning on Friday, February 27.

I will look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Judy Jensen

Clerk of Session

For those of you unable to attend the meeting in person, here is a link which will enable you to join us by ZOOM around 11am on March 8.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89496254953?pwd=6vRchh4ZCJmfWbr9m74JZpQkNwvQ65.1>

Meeting ID: 894 9625 4953

Passcode: 135075

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 Lebsack
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