



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

“God’s Other Life”

Genesis 21:8-21

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-42

Reverend Bruce Taylor

June 21, 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 "How Great Thou Art" performed by Sheresa Wilbanks

Welcome Reverend Bruce Taylor

****Opening Song** "Bring Many Names" Purple Hymnal 760 v. 6

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, ever-lasting home:
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

****Call to Worship** Psalm 86:8-10

Leader: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.

**People: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.**

Leader: For you are great and do wondrous things;

People: you alone are God.

Leader: We are gathered to worship God.

****Opening Hymn**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Purple Hymnal 49

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last beyond all thought, and still the same!

****Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were sinners, Christ died for us, and because we have faith in him, we can dare with confidence to approach our God. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

****Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,
you come to us in Jesus Christ and dwell among us in the Holy Spirit,
and we are blessed by your loving attention to our well-being,
both in body and in spirit.
But we confess that we often see ourselves at the center of your universe,
and sometimes claim a monopoly on your love.
Forgive us, O God, for interpreting the Bible as a limit on your grace.
Forgive us, O God, for assuming attitudes of superiority and exclusion
toward those who are different from us
in race or nationality or class or faith.
Forgive us, O God, for thinking that, because you have revealed something of your
ways,
we know all of them.
Give us humility of spirit and a thirst for salvation
that prompts us to pray for your blessing upon all people.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
(Silent confession)
Amen.**

****Response to Forgiveness** “Holy, Holy, Holy (Santo, Santo, Santo)” Purple Hymnal 595

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!
Santo, santo, santo. Mi corazon te adora!
Mi corazon te sabe decir: Santo, eres, Señor!

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our
Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

Prayer for Illumination – The Collect

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: Pour out upon us, O God, the power and wisdom of your Spirit, that we may
walk with Christ the way of the cross, ready to offer even the gift of our lives to
show forth to the world our hope in your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Ministry of Music

“Here I am Lord”

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-42

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Sermon

“God’s Other Life”

****Response to 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 failings 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 and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“Lord of All Good”

Purple Hymnal 711 v. 1

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

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**

“O God of Every Nation”

Purple Hymnal 756

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

****Charge and Blessing**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” Purple Hymnal 547 v. 1

“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.”

Postlude

“Happy Trails”

We have some very special visitors with us today! Phil and Kathy Price are joining us! Phil was Associate Pastor at COTH in the early 2000's. Phil was part of the team that fabricated the six side windows in the sanctuary, and is still doing stained glass! He also designed and made the window that is just outside Fellowship Hall above the door to the courtyard. Their son, Eric, was born here and graduated from Boise State last year. He is now teaching in Idaho. The Prices spent 16 years in Idaho where Phil served as Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church. Since 2022 they have been in Salina, KS, where Phil has been the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church there. Please join us in welcoming the Prices back to Church of the Hills!

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 – Sheresa Wilbanks
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 2 Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ

** Please stand if you are able