



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension of the Lord

“Jesus’ Prayer”

Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35

John 17:1-11

Pastor Richard Aylor

May 17, 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**

performed by Sheresa Wilbanks

**\*\*Opening Chant**

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

Purple Hymnal 698

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,

**People: for God reigns over all the earth!**

Leader: God has gone up with a shout!

**People: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Purple Hymnal 267

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

Carolyn Alexander

Leader: Jesus tells us that repentance and forgiveness is to be offered in his name.

**People: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, who assures us of new life through the power of Christ's redeeming love.**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

**Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

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

Leader: As Christ is our witness, God's power to pardon is immeasurable.

**People: Therefore, proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth: through the mercy of Christ, our sins 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**

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

Purple Hymnal 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voice; the Lord is near.

## Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life; enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet; in the name of the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.  
<sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.  
<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.  
<sup>4</sup> Sing to God; sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—  
his name is the LORD—  
be exultant before him.  
<sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.  
<sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.  
<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*  
<sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
<sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;  
<sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*  
<sup>33</sup> O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.  
<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel  
and whose power is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> Awesome is God in his sanctuary,  
the God of Israel;  
he gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

## Ministry of Music

### New Testament Reading

John 17:1-11

**17** After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### Sermon

“Jesus’ Prayer”

**\*\*Response to Sermon** “Why Should I Feel Discouraged ((His Eye is On the Sparrow))”  
Purple Hymnal 661

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

**(Refrain)**

**I sing because I'm happy, (I'm happy) I sing because I'm free, (I'm free)  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

“Let not your heart be troubled”, his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

**(Refrain)**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

**(Refrain)**

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

**\*\*Doxology**

“Our God is an Awesome God”

Purple Hymnal 616

Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!

### **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**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Purple Hymnal 268

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flower of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

**\*\*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.*

**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

\*\* Please stand if you are able