



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Psalm 51

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

February 18, 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.

Opening Voluntary

Welcome

Rev. Richard Aylor, Pastor, Church of the Hills Presbyterian

Rev. Sarah Clark, Pastor, The United Methodist Church of Evergreen

Rev. Terry Schjang, Pastor, Evergreen Lutheran Church

****Call to Worship**

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God's love endures forever.

****Opening Prayer**

Leader: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

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

****Hymn**

“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.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 51

(Refrain)

“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.

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

Leader: so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

People: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

People: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

(Refrain)

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

People: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

People: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Leader: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

People: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Leader: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

People: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(Refrain)

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10

we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Meditation

Hymn

“Restore in Us, O God”

Purple Hymnal 434

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Beloved people of God: every year at the time of Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's Word. Now let us go in prayer before God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sin.

Litany of Penitence

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

People: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives. Our self-indulgent appetites and ways we exploit other people.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: We confess our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

Leader: Lord have mercy upon us.

Silence

Leader: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

People: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

You are invited to come forward and receive the ashes as a sign of repentance and our need for new life.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. **Amen.**

Choir Anthem

“Touch Me With Ashes”

Prayer after Ashes

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of our savior,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.....

Leader: Therefore, with creation we sing your praise (hymn 552):

People: 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.

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith (hymn 553):

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: 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. (hymn 554)

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Words of Institution

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

For Reflection and Meditation

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Prayer after communion:

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

Purple Hymnal 166

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and
pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory
win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-
tide, yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be
past, and Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

****Charge and Benediction**

May the God of peace make you whole in every way and keep your whole being - spirit,
soul, body - free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Special thanks to Cindy Riley, Interim Director of Music at Church of the Hills, and Dave Gleason, Minister of Music at Evergreen Lutheran Church, for helping lead worship today. We also thank the combined choirs of all the churches for leading us in singing today!

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.

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

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 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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