



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Jesus, the True Vine”

Psalm 22:25-31

John 15:1-8

Pastor Richard Aylor

April 28, 2024

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

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

Purple Hymnal 59

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God’s mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord. Great is your faithfulness.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: In the wilderness, water brings life.

People: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

Leader: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

People: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

Leader: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

People: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Leader: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

People: Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

** Please stand if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“Come Thou Almighty King”

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

Come thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing; help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o’er all victorious,
come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord, our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be, hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

****Invitation to Confession**

Ed Powers

Leader: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.

People: We have not loved others as you have loved us.

Leader: We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you.

People: Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

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

Leader: You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you.

People: In baptism God claimed us and joined us to Christ, as branches to a vine.

Leader: Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Praise be to God.

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with those gathered here and those watching from home.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness**

“We Are Forgiven”

Purple 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 22:25-31

- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
- ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Ministry of Music

New Testament Reading

John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon

“Jesus, the True Vine”

****Response to Sermon**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Purple Hymnal 36

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will be done.
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Invitation to the Offering and the 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 Thou My Vision”

Purple Hymnal 450

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

****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.

A special thank you to today’s Guest Accompanist – David Churchill

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

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. (Peg and Toby normally go to lunch between 12:30 and 1:00 and are back by 2:00). 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)
Choir Director – Nancy Church (Interim)
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder – Worship – Christi Todd
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Jill Green
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Mike Clinton
Elder – Administration & Communications – Shari Gulbrandsen

Deacons:

Donna Bucholz
Monica Rider
Marilyn Sandifer
Dianne Lebsock
Deb Powers
Marjorie Clinton

Margaret Bailey
Valorie Wells
Laura McKnight

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hyatt 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 "Feasting on the Word", Liturgies for Year B. Volume 1