



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

First Sunday of Advent

“With Hopeful Expectation”

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36

Pastor Richard Aylor

December 1, 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**

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**Opening Hymn Part 1**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Purple Hymnal 88

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Advent Candle Lighting and Reading**

David and Kelly Selva

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
Advent means coming.  
We are preparing ourselves for the days  
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Lighting of the Candle)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**\*\*Opening Hymn Part 2**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Purple Hymnal 88

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial.” With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: We are not ready for your coming.**

Leader: We live in sin, as though there were not justice.

**People: We live in fear, as though there were no grace.**

Leader: Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love.

**People: Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

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

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all. 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**

“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 voices; the Lord is near.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **New Testament Reading**

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

## **Ministry of Music**

performed by Doug Brown and Christi Todd

## **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

**Sermon**

“With Hopeful Expectation”

**\*\*Response to Sermon**

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

Purple Hymnal 357

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,  
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.  
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,  
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.  
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,  
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last  
the fullness of God’s presence, God’s promise, come to pass.  
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and we will be delivered by God’s almighty hand.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*\*Doxology**

“One Bread, One Body”

Purple Hymnal 530 (Chorus only)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## The Eucharist

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.....**

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

**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.**

Great is the mystery of faith (purple 553):

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

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.** (purple 554):  
And now let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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)**

### **Special Music during Communion**

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

### **Prayer After Communion**

**All: Loving God, you graciously feed us, who have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament, be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son our Lord and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.**

### **\*\*Closing Hymn**

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Purple Hymnal 82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **\*\*Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And all 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.*

\*\* 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)  
Director of Music – Nancy Church  
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 – Margi Masquelier  
Elder – Administration & Communications –  
Elder – Building & Grounds – Bob McFadden



Deacons:

Nancy Grant  
Monica Rider  
Marilyn Sandifer  
Dianne Lebsock  
Deb Powers  
Marjorie Clinton

Carla McFadden  
Laura McKnight  
Cherie Braun  
Kelly Selva

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"

Music is reprinted by permission of CCLI #1101861

AV is used by permission of CVLI #303324640

Liturgy and reflections are provided by "Feasting on the Word", Liturgies for Year C. Volume 1