



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Second Sunday of Advent

“Turning Toward God”

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor Richard Aylor

December 4, 2022

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 – Rachmaninoff’s Etudes-Tableaux, Op. 33, No. 6

Played by Joseph Noelliste

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

Opening Chant “While we are Waiting, Come”

Purple Hymnal 92 (v. 2)

With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting come.

Advent Candlelighting

Donna and Jerry Bucholz representing Deacons and Finance

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.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them.

(LIGHT THE CANDLE)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Purple Hymnal 88 (v. 1, 4,5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.

(Refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

(Refrain)

Invitation to Confession

Donna Bucholz

Leader: John the Baptist’s cry echoes through the age: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!

People: Here and now, we go to God in humility and faith, confessing our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Donna Bucholz

Leader: God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing.

People: We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good.

Leader: Fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom.

All: Forgive us and help us create your vision of peace, O Lord; a realm where all live together in harmony.

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace of Christ

Donna Bucholz

Leader: Christ comes into our world-

People: Christ comes into our lives-to purify us and give us another chance.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: We rejoice in the hope Christ offers us! Thanks 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** “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” Purple Hymnal 444 (v. 2)

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

Prayer for Illumination

Donna Bucholz

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Ministry of Music

“Is He Worthy”

by Andrew Peterson
Played by Joseph Noelliste

New Testament Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor Richard Aylor

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Sermon

“Turning Toward God”

****Response to Sermon**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Purple Hymnal 106

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

(Refrain)

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

(Refrain)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

(Refrain)

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Doxology**

“What Shall I Render to the Lord”

Purple Hymnal 655 (v. 1)

What shall I render to the Lord; what shall my offering be,
for all the gracious benefits God hath bestowed on me?

**** Please stand for all hymns if you are able**

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Richard Aylor

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Special Music during Communion

Played by Joseph Noelliste

Distribution of the Elements (The elements are gluten-free)

You are invited to come forward. Please remain six feet apart from the person in front of you. Please take the individual cups and return to your seats. You are welcome to take the elements anytime while in your seat. After the service, we ask that you please take your cups and throw them away in the trash can located in the Narthex.

For Reflection and Meditation:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

All: God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“People Look East”

Purple Hymnal 105 (v. 1, 4, 5)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

(Refrain)

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest is on the way.**

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light for the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

(Refrain)

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

(Refrain)

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord is on the way.**

****Charge and Blessing**

Pastor Richard Aylor

Leader: And the people of God say

People: **Alleluia. Amen.**

** Please stand for all hymns if you are able

Please join us for Fellowship Time immediately following the Worship Service. To all of our visitors, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you during this time.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation following worship on December 11 for the purpose of acting on a recommendation from Session regarding pastoral leadership and electing members of a Discernment Team.

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 and 12:30 and are back by 1:30). Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Please remember the deadline for Church Communication Publications is Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

A special thank you to Tate and 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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