



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

First Sunday after Epiphany – Baptism of the Lord

“Joined to Christ Through Our Baptism”

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor Richard Aylor

January 11, 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**                    “Come, Thou Almighty King”                    performed by Phyllis Pieffer

**\*\*Opening Chant**                    “You Belong to Christ”                    Purple Hymnal 492

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Welcome**                    Pastor Richard Aylor

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

**People: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

Leader: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

**People: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary’s womb.**

Leader: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples’ feet in water.

**People: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

Leader: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**People: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!**

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

**\*\*Opening Hymn****“Baptized in Water”**

Purple Hymnal 482

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spirit, we are God’s children; joyfully now God’s praises we sing.

**\*\*Invitation to Confession**

Kelly Selva

Leader: Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

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

Leader: God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And, also with you.**

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

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

**\*\*Response to Forgiveness**      “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”      Purple Hymnal 623 (v. 1)

I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.

I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader:      Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All:**      **Still-speaking God, as these words from Scripture are read, may it be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons. Amen.**

### **Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 42:1-9

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

**2** He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;  
**3** a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

**4** He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

**5** Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

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

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

**Ministry of Music**

“Lamb of God”

**New Testament Lesson**

Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”.

**Sermon**

“Joined to Christ Through Our Baptism”

**\*\*Response to Sermon**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Purple Hymnal 475

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers**

Rev. Richard Aylor

Leader: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**All: To each is given the gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

**Presentation of Officers**

Elder Judy Jensen

To be ordained and/or installed as an Elder:

John O'Brien

To be installed as Trustees of the Permanent Endowment Fund

Elliott Drumright

Neil Snyder

**Constitutional Questions**

**Laying on of Hands**

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

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

**\*\*Doxology**

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

Purple Hymnal 297 (v. 1)

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace  
and gather a people from each land and race.  
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ’s death,  
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

## **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**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Purple Hymnal 375

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing ty the throne of God?

**(Refrain)**

**Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at river that flows by the throne of God.**

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

**(Refrain)**

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

**(Refrain)**

Soon we’ll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

**(Refrain)**

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

**\*\*Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

**People: Alleluia. Amen.**

*Please join us for the Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, January 11 for the purpose of approving Richard's terms of call during 2026. Copies of the call and of the agenda for this meeting can be found in the narthex.*

*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 Phyllis Pieffer for being our accompanist this week.*

**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.

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

**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 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:**

Carla McFadden

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