



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Second Sunday of Easter

“The Peace of Christ”

Psalm 16:1-11

John 20:19-31

Pastor Richard Aylor

April 12, 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

“Majesty”

performed by Phyllis Pieffer

****Opening Chant**

“Be Not Afraid”

Purple Hymnal 243

“Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is Risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

People: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

People: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

Leader: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

People: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

****Opening Hymn**

“The Strife Is O’er”

Purple Hymnal 236

(Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory
of life is won; the song of triumph
has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
legions hath dispersed: let shouts of holy
joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped; Christ rises
glorious from the dead: all glory to our
risen Head! Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death’s dread
sting thy servants free, that we may live, and
sing to thee: Alleluia!

(Refrain)

****Invitation to Confession**

Linda LaGrange

Leader: God has been made known to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about our lives.

****Prayer of Confession**

God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen.

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

Leader: My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God. That is a promise of peace and joy.

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness**

“Christ Is Alive”

Purple Hymnal 246 (v. 1)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands
empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 16:1-11

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
² I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.”
³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Ministry of Music

“Be Thou My Vision”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

“The Peace of Christ”

**Response to Sermon

“That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright”

Purple Hymnal 254

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
out with fairer light when, to their longing
eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
glorious wounds abide, the tokens true which
made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.

From every weapon death can wield, your own
redeemed forever shield; O Lord of all, with
us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Purple Hymnal 250 (v. 3)

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Purple Hymnal 240

(Refrain)

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name.**

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

(Refrain)

Spread the good news o’er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

(Refrain)

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever.

(Refrain)

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

“Sing Rejoice”

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are donated by John O’Brien in loving memory of his wife, Karen.

Please Join Us on Sunday, April 12, 2026

The congregation will be meeting in person following worship on Sunday, April 12, 2026 for the purpose of considering a change to the Church of the Hills Bylaws and the election of church officers.

This material is being sent to members with internet connections via Friday Features; paper copies will be mailed to those who request them, and they will also be available in the narthex of the church.

[Agenda - Congregational Meeting 4-12-26](#)

[Call to Meeting with biographies 4-12-26](#)

Judy Jensen

Clerk of Session

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.

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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Liturgy and reflections are provided by Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost

** Please stand if you are able