

Church of the Hills

"Thanksgiving"

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Pastor Richard Aylor

November 29, 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 Sheresa Wilbanks

Opening Chant "While We Are Waiting, Come" Purple Hymnal 92 (v.1)

"While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come."

Welcome Pastor Richard Aylor

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading Barb and Tom Scripps

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.

****Call to Worship**

Leader: O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

People: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Leader: Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:

People: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

****Opening Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates" Purple Hymnal 93

Lift up your heads, ye might gates; behold the
King of glory waits; the King of kings is
drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a
temple, set apart from earthly use for
heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to
thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner
presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

****Invitation to Confession** Cindy Sahli

Leader: Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.

People: Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

****Prayer of Confession**

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out – against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

People: Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

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** "Come, Come Emmanuel" Purple Hymnal 91

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: **Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Ministry of Music "Amazing Grace" Choir

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, **5** for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— **6** just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sermon "Thanksgiving"

****Response to Sermon** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Purple Hymnal 88 (v. 1-3)

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 the O Israel.

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 the 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 the O Israel.

****Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering and 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.

****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 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.

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 <u>Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.</u>

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 <u>following week's</u> communication publications and job tasks.

Church Officers:

Pastor – Richard Aylor
Office Administrator – Peggy Farnham (and Toby)
Director of Music – Sheresa Wilbanks
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Neil Snyder
Treasurer – Christi Todd
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:

Cherie Braun
Kelly Selva
Marjorie Clinton
Nancy Alexander
Monica Rider
Cindy Sahli
Laura McKnight
Jennie Snyder

*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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** Please stand if you are able