



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

7th Sunday of Easter

“Gathering Together in Prayer and Waiting with Anticipation”

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Acts 1:1-14

Pastor Richard Aylor

May 21, 2023

*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**

Played by Nancy Church

**Opening Chant - "The Lord is God"**

Purple Hymnal 63

"The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days."

**Welcome**

Pastor Richard Aylor

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We may not know the time or the place,

**People: but we know that God is restoring the world.**

Leader: We may not see the risen Christ before us,

**People: but we know his spirit rests on us.**

Leader: We may not know what God is doing next,

**People: but we come together in faith, excited to discover it!**

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

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Purple Hymnal 260 (v. 1, 2, 4)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o’er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your foot-stool, heaven your throne.  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

**Invitation to Confession**

Jill Green

Leader: Scripture tells us that our sufferings are known to Christ.

**People: We can cast all our anxiety on Jesus, who restores, supports, strengthens and establishes us.**

Leader: Knowing this, let us come to God in a spirit of openness.

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

## **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us.

**People: You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us.**

Leader: We have fallen short of this call.

**People: We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo.**

Leader: Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.

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

Leader: Listen to this prayer: "Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

**People: This is the prayer that Christ prayed on our behalf.**

Leader: This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is -

**People: the one who hears our prayers, responding to our longing for forgiveness with mercy.**

Leader: Thanks be to God, praise be to Christ.

**People: Glory be to the Holy Spirit.**

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**      “How Can I Keep from Singing?”      Purple Hymnal 821 (v. 3)

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

**(Refrain)**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Leader:**      Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All:**      **Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may  
hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

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

- <sup>1</sup> Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;  
 let those who hate him flee before him.
- <sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
 as wax melts before the fire,  
 let the wicked perish before God.
- <sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful;  
 let them exult before God;  
 let them be jubilant with joy.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing to God; sing praises to his name;  
 lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds —  
 his name is the LORD—  
 be exultant before him.
- <sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and protector of widows  
 is God in his holy habitation.
- <sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
 he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
 but the rebellious live in a parched land.
- <sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people,  
 when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*
- <sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
 at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
 at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- <sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
 you restored your heritage when it languished;
- <sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it;  
 in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.
- <sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
 sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*
- <sup>33</sup> O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
 listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
- <sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God,  
 whose majesty is over Israel  
 and whose power is in the skies.
- <sup>35</sup> Awesome is God in his sanctuary,  
 the God of Israel;  
 he gives power and strength to his people.  
 Blessed be God!

**(Refrain)**

**Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel to every creature!  
Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel to every creature!  
Go ye into all the world, go ye into all the world and preach My gospel!**

Jesus said, “This is the great commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this; that he lay down his life for his friends.”

**(Refrain)**

“Let not your heart be troubled, if you believe in God, you believe in Me!”

**(Refrain)**

**New Testament Reading**

Acts 1:1-14

**1** In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**Sermon** “Gathering Together in Prayer and Waiting with Anticipation”

**\*\*Response to Sermon** “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun” Purple Hymnal 265 (v. 1, 2, 5)

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name, like sweet perfume,  
shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

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

**\*\*Doxology** “We Give Thee but Thine Own” Purple Hymnal 708 (v. 2)

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.

### **Prayers of the People 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.**

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



**\*\*Closing Hymn**            “Crown Him with Many Crowns”      Purple Hymnal 268 (v. 1, 2, 4)

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

**\*\*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, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you during this  
time.*

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

## **Please Join Us on Sunday, May 21, 2023**

The congregation will be meeting in person (with no Zoom connection available) following worship on Sunday, May 21, 2023 for the purpose of:

- electing officers and
- approving terms of call for The Reverend Richard Aylor; these terms will be effective June 16, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Material identifying the candidates and the terms of call will be sent to members with internet connections; paper copies will be mailed to those who request them, and they will also be available at the church.

**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. Also, please provide advance notice for any special projects so that time can be accurately allocated and quality and fairness can be provided for all concerned. Thank you!**

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hiatt 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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