



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

First Sunday in Lent

“Temptations in the Wilderness”

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 9, 2025

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

Opening Chant

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Purple Hymnal 423

“Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: The journey begins in the wilderness.

Leader: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: Like Jesus, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us. God’s Word is on our lips.

Leader: Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God’s will in all things.

People: For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through the wilderness.

** Please stand if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“Praise Ye the Lord”

Purple Hymnal 35

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again, gladly for aye we adore him.

****Invitation to Confession**

Sue Brown

Leader: God is faithful, leading us into freedom, but we are conditioned to the slavery of sin.

People: Comfortable with the way things are, we lose sight of the way God intends them to be.

Leader: We bring our confession before the One who is more powerful than Pharaoh in Egypt, mightier than the devil in the wilderness.

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you.

People: We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own.

Leader: We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world.

People: In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us we pray.

Leader: Do not let us be put to shame, O God.

People: Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

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

Leader: Scripture declares, the Lord is generous to all who call on God's name.

People: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

People: 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 "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Purple Hymnal 423 (v. 3)**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives until you become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

26 “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Ministry of Music

“The Lord is My Shepherd”

performed by the Chancel Choir

New Testament Reading

Luke 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

⁹ Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Sermon

“Temptations in the Wilderness”

****Response to the Sermon** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Purple Hymnal 166

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
and Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

** Please stand if you are able

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology** “What Wondrous Love is This” Purple Hymnal 215 (v. 1)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

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** “Great is Thy Faithfulness” Purple Hymnal 39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

****Charge and Blessing**

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.

Sunday School for Lent immediately follows the worship service.

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 12:30 and 1:00 and are back by 2:00). 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 – Nancy Church
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder – Worship – Christi Todd
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Heidi Smithson
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Margi Masquelier
Elder – Administration -
Elder - Communications – Jessica Lymburner
Elder – Building & Grounds – Bob McFadden

Deacons:

Nancy Grant	Carla McFadden
Monica Rider	Laura McKnight
Marilyn Sandifer	Cherie Braun
Dianne Lebsock	Kelly Selva
Marjorie Clinton	

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hyatt 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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