



Church of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

“A Bold Legacy”

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Reverend Bill Sanders

September 12, 2021

*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.*

**Welcome**

Christi Todd

**Call to Worship**

Christi Todd

Leader: We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John, people with vision.

**People: We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman, people with questions.**

Leader: We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary, people with self-doubts.

**People: We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen, people with courage.**

Leader: We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul, people with sadness and sin in our memories.

**People: We come, like Rebekah and Samuel, like Hosea and Esther, like Nathaniel and Martha, like John Mark and Priscilla, people with a part to play in the story of faith.**

**All: We come, seeking God's wisdom and strength to live faithfully into Christ's call to be His Church in and for the world.**

**Opening Hymn**

"I Will Come to You"

177 (v.1, 2 & 4)

**I will come to you in the silence;  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be  
Still and know I am here.**

**I am hope for all who are hopeless;  
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the  
shadows of the night, I will be your light.  
Come and rest in me.**

*Refrain*

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by  
Name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I  
Love you and you are mine.***

**I am the Word that leads all to freedom. I  
Am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand  
Up, now walk and live!**

*Refrain*

## **Invitation to Confession**

Christi Todd

Leader: We come to God empty, praying to be filled.

**All: Come, God of grace, fill our lives with meaning and power through your Spirit we pray.**

**Returning to the Lord through Confession (unison):**

**Glorious God, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses, the multitude of the faithful of all ages, who have provided the grounding of our lives. When we forget or fail to notice the signs of your love and grace that surround us each day, remind us that we are your beloved children. Forgive us when we fall short of our high calling as your people and for our shortsightedness when we have let our doubts and fears rule our decisions. As we recall the example of the faithful who have gone before us, and we look to Jesus' example, may we grow in wisdom. Grant us strength, that we might be able to let go of all that hinders our living faithfully. Encourage us, that we might fully live into the future you have prepared. Guide us as we seek to embrace and encourage one another's gifts, that we might share in the joy of fully becoming the body of Christ in this time and this place. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray.**

**(Silent Prayers)**

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

Christi Todd

Leader: God says to us: You are my chosen ones. I love you. I'm proud of you. Stand firm in your renewed commitment. Know that I have forgiven you; I call you by name; you are mine. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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**      “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”      610 (v.5)

**To God all glory, praise and love be  
Now and ever given by saints below and  
Saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

**Prayer for Illumination**      Christi Todd

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

**All: Speak, God, for we your children are listening. If we need a gentle word, bring that. If we need a strong one, bring that. Come, Holy Spirit, spark our imaginations and stir our hearts. Give us wisdom. Amen**

**Epistle Reading**      James 3:1-12      Christi Todd

**Old Testament Reading**      Mark 8:27-38      Christi Todd

**Sermon**      “A Bold Legacy ”      Reverend Bill Sanders

**Response to Sermon**      “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”      761 (v. 1,4)

**Called as Partners in Christ’s Service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend;  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

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

Reverend Bill Sanders

**\*\*Doxology**

“Take My Life”

697 (v.4)

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use every power as  
Thou shalt choose, every power as Thou shalt choose.**

**Thanksgiving Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

Reverend Bill Sanders

**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.**

**Closing Hymn**

“May the God of Hope Go with Us”

765 (2x)

**May the God of Hope Go with Us every day, filling all our  
Lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us  
On our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.**

*Repeat*

**Charge and Blessing**

Reverend Bill Sanders

**Leader:** And the people of God say

**People:** Alleluia. Amen.

All hymns today are from the purple hymnal.

### **Biography of Today’s Guest Minister, Bill Sanders**

Rev. Bill Sanders is now “honorably retired”. He served primarily as an intentional interim during most of his active ministry – including his ‘swan song’ as Arvada’s transitional pastor. He is a native of Colorado, who returned to the state after spending nearly three decades studying and serving in Louisville, Kentucky. Rev. Sanders, after serving two terms on Denver Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry, continues to serve as the chair of the COM’s Pastoral Care Team.

Bill spends much free time enjoying walking and hiking with his four-legged companion, Zuri (beautiful in Swahili), who was a gift from his late wife, who seemed to discern that he would need a constant companion to both comfort and insist on getting him out of the house to walk every day. He loves spending as much time as possible with his two sons, their wives, and his four grandchildren, and gives thanks that during the past year of isolation and the distance, that technology has allowed for virtual playdates. He also gives thanks that the hidden blessings have included extra time for him to read -- including books that have been hovering on the shelves for years awaiting such a time as this.



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\*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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