

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

**Prelude** There Is a Redeemer (Melody Green, arr. Joel Raney) Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**Call to Worship** Rev. Carlos Sosa

One: Come, all who seek God's presence. Come, all who long for renewal.

**All: We come, acknowledging our need for grace.**

One: This is a day to remember our humanity, our brokenness, and our dependence on God.

**All: We turn our hearts to God, seeking mercy and restoration.**

One: Let us worship with humility and expectation.

**All: We open our hearts to God's transforming love.**

**Call to Confession** Rev. Carlos Sosa

*(Moment of silent confession)*

**Prayer of Confession** Rev. Carlos Sosa

**All: Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and guide us toward what we shall be. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness** Rev. Carlos Sosa

One: On this sacred Ash Wednesday, let us remember that our God is a God of boundless mercy and forgiveness. As we embark on this holy season of Lent, let us open our hearts to receive His abundant grace. Just as the ashes upon our foreheads symbolize our mortality, they also remind us of God's willingness to forgive our sins.

**All: Just as the ashes upon our foreheads symbolize our mortality, they also remind us of God's willingness to forgive our sins.**

One: May we, in turn, learn to forgive ourselves and one another, releasing the burdens of remorse and resentment that weigh us down. Let the ashes of our past mistakes be transformed into fertile ground for new beginnings, as we embrace the promise of redemption and renewal. In God's mercy, we find the strength to journey towards a brighter and holier future.

**All: In God's mercy, we find the strength to journey towards a brighter and holier future.**

**Scripture Reading** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NIV)  
**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Message** Beyond the Ashes: A Journey of Repentance and Hope

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Music** On Eagle's Wings (Michael Joncas, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr Kyungsun Choi

**Marking with Ashes**  
**Affirmation of Faith**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Benediction**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**May the love and peace of our Lord be with you as you go forth from this gathering. May His grace fill your hearts and His light guide your path. You may go in peace, Amen.**

**Postlude** Grace (Early American Melody, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr Kyungsun Choi