

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

## Welcome and Announcements Passing of the Peace

Paul Tobey

One: Through webs and nets and wires, it googles and zooms to everyone whose heart needs peace, and to every place there is no peace. And we will share it now: the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

**Prelude** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Rowland Prichard, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

## Call to Worship

Paula Noel

One: Come, let us gather with hearts full of gratitude.

**All: We seek joy together, even in life's struggles.**

One: Let's strengthen our faith and trust in God's promises.

**All: We believe His love holds us through every storm.**

One: Open your hearts to serve and love one another.

**All: United in hope, we find joy in God's presence today.**

**Hymn** To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

#17

**To you, O God, all creatures sing,  
and all creation, everything  
Sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam,  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
Sing your praises alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Your wind that blows the tempest by,  
your clouds that sail across the sky  
Sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a son,  
and lights of evening sing along,  
Sing your praises alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Your flowing waters, crystal clear,  
make melodies for you to hear,  
Sing your praises, alleluia!**

**Your fire, ...bountiful and bright,  
remembering your warmth and light,  
Sings your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**To you, O God, day after day,  
Your planet earth in every way,  
Sings your praises, alleluia,  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower  
Show forth your glory and your power,  
Singing praises, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Now we who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take our part,  
Sing your praises, alleluia!  
To you we lift our pain and care,  
Receive the burdens that we bear,  
Singing praises, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**In you a kind and gentle death  
Prepares to hush our final breath,  
Sing your praises, alleluia!  
Christ goes before us to renew  
The way that leads us home to you.  
Hear our praises, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Litany of the Advent Candle  
Liturgy of Hope**

Volunteer

**Reader 1:** O God, we light the first candle of Advent.  
*(Lights the first candle.)*

**Reader 2:** We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace. We remember times we longed for God to be present to us, this congregation, and this world.

**Reader 1:** The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

**People:** **Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

**Young at Heart**

Sue Ellen Coltrin

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

One: Divine Light, hope can be a tricky thing. It helps us envision what might be possible, directing our movements toward the fullness of the Gospel.

**All: And yet, we can also get lost in the future, forgetting the present or clinging to what never was, when what we hoped for doesn't come to pass.**

One: By your vision for us, guide us to navigate the waters of space and time, want and need,

**All: that we can be faithful to hold on when we need to hold on and let go when we must. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance  
Prayers of the People  
Pastoral Prayer  
Savior's Prayer**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Our Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kindom come, your 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 yours is the kindom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

**Music** Break Forth, O Beautiful Heavenly Light (Johann Schop, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**First Reading** Psalm 25:1-10 NRSVUE

Paula Noel

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 NRSVUE

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Message** For All the Joy

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Communion**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

*Introduction*

Today, Christ invites all to this table. Therefore, we remember those who are not present, those who have passed away, those who were called, those who are hungry and thirsty, those who planted and harvested the grapes and grains for our feast, those behind bars, those at work today and the unemployed, those who are ill, those who lack transportation, those who are depressed and anxious and afraid, those we exclude from our churches, those who cannot afford to be with us for whatever reason; we remember all who you call to your supper. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

*Words of Institution*

Friends, we gather at this table to remember and celebrate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As we take the bread and the cup today, let's remember Jesus' love, reflect on our lives, and renew our commitment to Him. Let's embrace the unity we have as believers, coming from different backgrounds but united in Christ.

Let us now share in this holy meal, remembering Christ's love and sacrifice for us all. Amen.

One: The Body of Christ,

**All: (*In taking the bread*) The bread of heaven**

One: The blood of Christ,

**All: (*In drinking the cup*) The Cup of Salvation**

**Let us pray!**

*Prayer*

**Heavenly Father, we thank You for this holy communion, for the bread and the cup, symbols of Your Son's sacrifice for us. May this sacred meal strengthen our faith, unite us in Your love, and inspire us to live as Christ taught us. Let it nourish our souls and empower us to be Your hands and feet in the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Loving God, we thank You for the blessings in our lives and the chance to give back. Use these gifts to spread Your joy, strengthen faith, and serve those in need. May they bring hope and love to the world, all for Your glory. Amen.**

**Hymn** In Christ There Is No East or West

#394

**In Christ there is no East or West,  
in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God,  
and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**Benediction**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Postlude** Ding Dong! Merrily on High (Traditional English Carol. arr. Joel Raney)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi