

Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Paul Tobey

Passing of the Peace

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 Siciliano (Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Eugen d'Albert) Dr. Kyungsun Choi

Liturgy of the Lenten Candles

George Traviolia

The Journey Begins

Reader: We begin this season of Lent, walking with Christ toward the cross. The journey calls us to reflection, repentance, and renewal.

All: We come seeking God's presence, open to transformation.

Reader: As we extinguish this candle, we acknowledge our need for God's mercy.

All: Lord, guide us through the wilderness of our hearts. Amen.

Call to Worship

George Traviolia

One: Come, beloved friends, let us enter this moment with open hearts, ready to meet God in our wilderness places.

All: We gather as one family, seeking strength, clarity, and hope for the journey ahead.

One: Let us lift our eyes to the One who guides us when life feels heavy and uncertain.

All: We come trusting that God meets us in every struggle and leads us toward deeper truth.

One: Let us worship the God who strengthens us just as He strengthened Jesus in the wilderness.

All: Together we rise, ready to receive, ready to grow, ready to walk forward in faith.

Hymn Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

**Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,**

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mount of God's unfailing love.

**Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger,
Blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.**

Young at Heart

Sue Ellen Coltrin

Opening Prayer

George Traviolia

Holy Spirit, we welcome You into this sacred space. Prepare our hearts, steady our minds, and open our spirits as we gather to worship. Fill this place with Your peace and guide us into Your truth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Savior's Prayer

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Our Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Voices of the Heart (Exodus 24:12-18)

Lisa Avalos

**Moses with such commitment
to the lord with no
pushing or pulling no
division, but to follow
the Lord's instruction to**

meet him on Mount
Sinai there he was
given the stone tablets
with the Ten Commandments
which were the first
laws given to his people
like the first fruit and
the seeds to grow and
all on earth to prosper
with his love he put
al things together
the lamb of God
Adam and Eve. Watch
for his plans have
not ended.

-Lisa Avalos-

Music I Need Thee Every Hour (Robert Lowry, arr. Mark Hayes) Dr. Kyungsun Choi

First Reading Romans 5:12-19 NRSVUE

George Traviolia

Second Reading Matthew 4:1-11 NRSVUE

Sean Sosa

Message

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Invitation to the Offering
Offering Prayer

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for sustaining us beyond bread alone and for providing in every wilderness season. We dedicate these gifts to Your service, trusting that You will multiply them to bring hope, strength, and compassion to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn O Jesus, I Have Promised

#493

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;**

**And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!**

Benediction

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Postlude Joy Song (Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi