

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 8, 2026

## 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** Spirit of the Living God (Daniel Iverson, arr. Marianne Kim)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

## Call to Worship

Mary Laucks

One: When the world feels heavy with injustice and grief,

**All: We gather to remember who we are and whose we are.**

One: When religion is reduced to ritual and performance,

**All: We long for a faith that takes flesh.**

One: The Spirit searches our hearts and invites us deeper -  
past fear, past certainty, past indifference.

**All: Search us, O God, and make us ready.**

One: When we cry out for help in a hurting world,

**All: God answers, "Here I am."**

One: And when God shows up in the work of justice and mercy,

**All: We answer, "Here we are."**

One: Come, let us worship the One who is present in the struggle and the healing.

**All: Here we are, O God... in the work.**

**Hymn** There's a Spirit in the Air

#294

**There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:**

**"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."**

**Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

**When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.**

**Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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**When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

**May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

**There's a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere:  
Praise the love that Christe revealed, living, working in our world.**

**Young at Heart**

Sue Ellen Coltrin

**Opening Prayer**

Mary Laucks

**Holy and Loving God, you are the One who meets us in the real work of this world. This work is where bonds are loosened, bread is shared, and hearts are searched. As we gather, quiet what distracts us and open us to your Spirit. Uproot what has taken hold in us that is not planted in love, and shape in us the mind of Christ - steady, compassionate, and brave. When we cry out for guidance, remind us that you are already here. Here we are, O God... ready to worship and ready for the work. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People  
Pastoral Prayer**

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**Savior's Prayer**

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**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 (1 Corinthians 2:1-12)**

Lisa Avalos

Human wisdom thoughts are like  
I think therefore I know or  
I see and is it real. The  
wind blows in my face and  
dust everywhere, for now  
I lay me down to sleep  
and wonder why in darkness  
for it was a long day and  
now we rest, so it is said  
by mankind. So it is  
also said by the Apostle

Paul once weak and filled  
with fear I know nothing  
of Human wisdom but of  
the spirit of God and his  
power. If rulers of the  
ages knew of God's great  
spirit and power Christ  
would have not been  
crucified.

For a moment think  
of the difference between  
Human wisdom and the  
wisdom of God's spirit.  
Where does life lead us  
since the beginning of  
time when there was only  
God and no one else  
he that formed everything.  
How the world turns round  
and round with the spirit  
within us, and not always  
of worldly things.

-Lisa Avalos-

**Music** Here I Am, Lord (Dan Schutte, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**First Reading** Isaiah 58:6-9 NRSVUE

Mary Laucks

**Second Reading** Matthew 15:13-20 NRSVUE

Mary Laucks

**Third Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 NRSVUE

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**Message** "Here I Am... in the Work"

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**Invitation to the Offering**

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**Offering Prayer**

**Generous God,  
with grateful hearts we offer these gifts and our very selves.  
Receive them, bless them, and send them outward  
as courage for the weary, bread for the hungry,  
and compassion made visible in this world.  
May they bear the fragrance of Your Love wherever they land.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn** This Little Light

#524

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.**

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Benediction**

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

**Postlude** I've Got Peace Like a River  
(Traditional American Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi