

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ  
Baptism of the Lord  
First Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 12, 2025

## Welcome and Announcements Passing of the Peace

Paul Tobey

One: Through hearts and hands and voices, through webs and 'nets and wires, it touches everyone whose heart needs peace and every place where there is no peace.

And we share it now: the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

**Prelude** Kyrie (John Leavitt)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

## Contemporary Voice

Jennifer Lukowicz

“Baptism reminds us that there’s no ladder to holiness to climb, no self-improvement plan to follow. It’s just death and resurrection, over and over again, day after day, as God reaches down into our deepest graves and with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead wrests us from our pride, our apathy, our fear, our prejudice, our anger, our hurt, and our despair.”

— Rachel Held Evans <https://www.ucc.org/sermon-seeds/sermon-seeds-heaven-opened/>

## Call to Worship

Jennifer Lukowicz

One: We are called to be God’s people, faithful and courageous.

**All: As God’s beloved Child, our beloved brother, embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, let us be inspired by the feathery Spirit to join in Jesus’ transforming work.**

**Hymn** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#563

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,  
the moon, the wild-flowers growing,  
for we are part of all that is  
within life’s river flowing.  
With open hands receive and share  
the gifts of God’s creation,  
that all may have abundant life  
in every earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night,  
and weary, wait for morning,  
when children have no bread but tears,  
and war horns sound their warning,  
God calls humanity to awake,  
to join in common labor,  
that all may have abundant life**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**in oneness with their neighbor.**

**God calls humanity to join  
as partners in creating  
a future free from want or fear,  
life's goodness celebrating.  
That new world beckons from afar,  
invites our shared endeavor,  
that all might have abundant life  
and peace endure forever.**

**Young at Heart**

Sue Ellen Coltrin

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Karen MacDonald

**Jesus' Prayer**

*(paraphrased by)* Rev. Karen MacDonald

**Creator of heavens and earth, we bless your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done in all your creation. Give us the food we need for today, no more, no less. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us away from temptation. Keep evil away from us and keep us from doing evil. You reign in the power of love, and we give glory to your name. Amen.**

**Music** Above All (Lenny LeBlanc, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**Scripture Reading** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 NRSVUE

Jennifer Lukowicz

**Message** Baptism by Immersion

Rev. Karen MacDonald

**Hymn** Every Time I Feel the Spirit

#282

**Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain my God spoke,  
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me; looked so fine;  
I asked my God if all were mine.**

**Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
it chills the body, but not the soul.  
There's only one train on this track;  
it runs to heaven, then right back.**

**Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Invitation to Generosity  
Prayer of Dedication of Gifts**

Jennifer Lukowicz  
Jennifer Lukowicz

**Creator, who comes to us as a bird, in the clouds, through all of your beautiful  
creating, bless our offerings of prayer and time and money to be blessing to  
others, and bless us to come as your goodness in the world. Amen.**

**Hymn Great Work Has God Begun in You [Us]**

#353

**Great work has God begun in you,  
so let the Spirit follow through;  
The mark of Christ upon your brow,  
baptismal touch remember now.**

**In love, God calls you to this day,  
and gives you strength, these vows to say;  
Take up the faith that you were shown,  
and grow, assured you are God's own.**

**Around God's table celebrate  
the end of bondage, sin, and hate:  
A feast of love and victory,  
the gift of Christ who sets us free.**

**Great work has God begun in you;  
take on God's love in all you do,  
And may that love in you increase now,  
with God's blessing, go in peace.**

**Blessing**

Rev. Karen MacDonald

**Postlude Revive Us Again (John Husband, arr. Mark Hayes)**

Dr. Kyungsun Choi