

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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** I Come to the Cross (Bob Somma, arr. Joel Raney)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

## Liturgy of the Lenten Candles Opening Our Eyes

Elena Baltierrez

Reader: Christ calls us to walk with Him, even when the path leads to sacrifice.

**All: We follow, trusting in His love.**

*(Extinguish the fifth candle.)*

Reader: As this light fades, we remember the cost of discipleship.

**All: Lord, strengthen our faith. Amen.**

## Call to Worship

Elena Baltierrez

One: Come, friends, let us gather with open hearts, ready to see in a new way.

**All: We come longing for clarity of spirit and the courage to be transformed.**

One: God invites us to lay down our pride, our assumptions, and our fears.

**All: We rise together, seeking compassion, humility, and true vision.**

One: Let us step into the presence of the One who opens eyes and awakens hearts.

**All: We worship with gratitude, ready to see the world and one another through the light of God's love.**

**Hymn** Arise, Your Light Is Come!

#164

**Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.**

**Young at Heart**

Sue Ellen Coltrin

**Opening Prayer**

Elena Baltierrez

**Holy Spirit, we welcome You into this sacred moment. Prepare our hearts, quiet our minds, and open our spirits so we may receive what You desire for us today. Shape us, guide us, and make us ready for Your transforming presence. 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

**Voices of the Heart (Psalm 23)**

Lisa Avalos

Interesting I find a  
shepherd boy who was  
David. In his psalm  
calls the Lord his shepherd.  
Such faith David had for  
the Lord. He lie me down  
in green pastures and  
beside quiet waters  
for the purpose to  
refresh his soul. Said  
so well with beauty  
like a river flowing

below and a blue sky  
above. I close my eyes  
and could only imagine  
how much the Lord loved  
him with guidance  
to the right path and  
in the darkest valley  
he feared no evil.  
As we all should.  
Evil is a distraction  
which starts with hate  
which is the opposite  
of love which brings  
joy in our life.  
And as I end this  
psalm David states  
for you Lord are  
with me, your rod  
and staff they comfort  
me. And as follows  
David became a  
great king in Israel.

-Lisa Avalos-

**Music** The Old Rugged Cross (George Bennard, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**First Reading** Ephesians 5:8-14 NRSVUE

Elena Baltierrez

**Second Reading** John 9:1-41 NRSVUE

Sean Sosa

**Message**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Invitation to Generosity**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Offering Prayer**

**God of light and compassion, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. Use them to open eyes, heal lives, and spread Your love through us. Bless what we give and shape us into people who see with clarity and walk in Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Hymn** Just as I am

#207

**Just as I am, without one plea  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called inviting me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Benediction**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Postlude** Jubilate Deo (Jay Althouse)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi