

Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

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 Lamb of God (Twila Paris, arr. Joel Raney)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

Liturgy of the Lenten Candles

Jennifer Lukowicz

The Shadow of the Cross

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

Jennifer Lukowicz

One: My dear friends, we gather today carrying what feels heavy, hidden, and even lifeless within us.

All: Yet we come believing that life is still calling our name.

One: God meets us in our numbness, our pain, and our silent struggles.

All: And invites us into healing, hope, and new life.

One: We are not forgotten, we are not too far gone, we are being called forward.

All: So we open our hearts and rise into worship together.

Hymn Softly and Tenderly

#449

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home;
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling -
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies,
mercies for you and for me?**

**Come home, come home;
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling -
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.**

**Come home, come home;
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling -
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**O for the wonderful love Jesus promised,
promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon,
pardon for you and for me.**

**Come home, come home;
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling -
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

Young at Heart

Sue Ellen Coltrin

Opening Prayer

Jennifer Lukowicz

Gracious God, as we gather this morning, quiet our hearts and prepare us to receive your presence with openness and trust. Holy Spirit, awaken what feels numb, restore what feels lost, and lead us into healing and new life. 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lisa Avalos

So there was three the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
And with all three powers
the world exists.

And since then, many
questions remain but
I found through reading
the Bible I understand.

Like if so then why
I see many things that
surround me, and much
to know like a lesson
to learn. In the Bible
I find many stories that
bring me great faith
which points to the power
of the lord. Ezekiel
found himself in a
valley of dry bones.

The sovereign lord
said I will make
breath enter into
thee bones and they
will come to life from
the four winds. And
along came the tendons
and flesh all through
prophesying which to
me is like a golden
cup of smoke. Like
the spirit of mercy
and grace which many
in the Bible do.

So it is said these
bones returned to life
and were the people

of Israel. Aside from
the bones were open
graves and the Lord's
spirit was in them
and they came to life.
And I have done
it, declared the lord.

-Lisa Avalos-

Music Shepherd Me, O God (Marty Haugen, arr. Mark Hayes) Dr. Kyungsun Choi

First Reading John 11:1-25 NRSVUE

Jennifer Lukowicz

Second Reading John 11:26-45 NRSVUE

Sean Sosa

Message

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Invitation to the Offering
Offering Prayer

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Gracious and bountiful God, thank you for the gifts given today and for hearts willing to trust you on the journey of restoration. Use these offerings, Heavenly Creator, to provide for those in great need and to bring support where it is needed most. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn There Is a Balm in Gilead

#553

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Don't ever be discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge,
will never fail to lend.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,**

**there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
who died to save us all.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

Benediction

Rev. Carlos Sosa

Postlude There's Sunshine in My Soul Today (Hojoon Lee)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi