

Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Palm Sunday

March 29, 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 There Is a Redeemer (Melody Green, arr. Joel Raney) Dr. Kyungsun Choi

Liturgy of the Lenten Candles The Road to Jerusalem

Jim Jaeger

Reader: The crowds once shouted, "Hosanna!" but soon turned away.

All: We stand with Christ, choosing to walk in His way.

(Extinguish the sixth candle.)

Reader: As this light is extinguished, we remember the road ahead.

All: Lord, give us courage to follow You. Amen.

Call to Worship

Jim Jaeger

One: We come to this place carrying what we have - our stories, our questions, our hopes, our fears.

All: We come not alone, but together.

One: On this day, we remember a road made by ordinary people - cloaks laid down, branches lifted, voices raised.

All: A path prepared for love to enter.

One: We remember a Savior who did not arrive in power as the world defines it - but in humility, in presence, in shared humanity.

All: A Savior who knew the need for others along the way.

One: So come as you are, whether you feel strong or in need of a little help.

All: We come ready to receive and to offer.

One: Come, let us make space in our hearts and in our lives - for a different kind of power, a different kind of king.

**All: We will lay down what we can
and lift our voices in praise.**

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

An Open and Affirming Congregation

CCLI Licenses 1511798 & 20151992

"Hosanna, loud hosanna,"
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship
rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children,
slowed down the donkey's gait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer
and sing with all our powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you
with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence
forever we'll rejoice!"

Young at Heart

Sue Ellen Coltrin

Opening Prayer

Jim Jaeger

God of presence,
We gather as we are,
carrying what is heavy,
holding what is hopeful.
Meet us here in our fullness.
Quiet what distracts us.
Open what has been closed within us.
Teach us again the way of humility and love.
Help us to receive one another as gifts,
and to trust that we do not walk this path alone.
Prepare our hearts for your presence among us,
and guide us as we worship together.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Jennifer Lukowicz

God our Father, Giver of Life,

We entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the true source of our cherished right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Loving God, immigration has shaped us as a people. The dreams that drew people across oceans centuries ago continue to draw people to our shores today. However, while immigration has always been integral to our growth as a people, we have not, and do not always treat either native Americans or immigrants as brothers and sisters. Too often we fail to see them as men and women created in the image of God just as we are.

Immigration will continue to shape our nation. Our prayer today is that we will not allow fear or ignorance to shape our response. Let us never trade compassion for control or to mistake cruelty for strength. Lord, send your spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds, and ours, to the great worth of human life and their responsibilities that accompany freedom. Never let us forget that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will, and that through your power, hatred is overcome by love; revenge gives way to forgiveness and discord is changed to mutual respect. Believing every person is created in your image, loving God, we cannot remain silent when that dignity is denied to any woman, man, or child. Believing families are sacred, we cannot look away when they are torn apart. Believing the gospel still speaks to our world, gives us the grace to always allow it to speak through us. Grant us a clear and united voice in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that with every trial withstand every danger overcome this great land will always be the nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. A prayer we make in Jesus' name, amen.

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Voices of the Heart (Psalm 31:9-16)

Lisa Avalos

Brings to light of what
I see on corner streets.
Faces of distress as
though they speak to
me. My eyes grow weak,
sorrow in my soul and
body with grief.

Look at the anguish
in my hands as I
hold up signs for help
in hunger and need.
For we are the afflicted
enemies everywhere. They
just don't care.
We are the forgotten,
as though we were dead.
In the darkness we
hear whispering of
terror alone once again.
In my mind I want
to say trust in the
Lord for he will deliver
you out of this thing
called homelessness.
Homeless people, how did
they get there and
who were they before
homelessness? Dread
indeed. Like the lowest
part of humanity. Why
choose such a life?
Damnation! Evil in
its finest. I'm sure
they enjoy such pain.
Yet I call on the
Lord, save them from
Your unfailing love.

-Lisa Avalos-

Music I Am (Michael W. Smith, arr. David T. Clydesdale)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

First Reading Matthew 21:1-11 NRSVUE

Jim Jaeger

Second Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 NRSVUE

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

Message Boosted and Carried

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

Invitation to the Offering

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

Offering Prayer

Hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#224

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died,**

**My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, then, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.**

**From sacred head, from hands, and feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Palm Blessing and Distribution

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

Benediction

Davin "Dax" Franklin-Hicks

Postlude The Palms (Jean Baptiste Faure, arr. Ira B Wilson)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi