

Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

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 All Is Well (Michael W. Smith, arr. Marianne Kim)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

Liturgy of the Lenten Candles The Journey Begins

Reader: We begin this season of Lent, walking with Christ toward the cross. The journey calls us to reflection, repentance, and renewal.

All: We come seeking God's presence, open to transformation.

(Extinguish the first candle.)

Reader: As we extinguish this candle, we acknowledge our need for God's mercy.

All: Lord, guide us through the wilderness of our hearts. Amen.

Call to Worship

Jennifer Lukowicz

One: A great teacher, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, once said, "When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die." We are the people who have responded to this call.

All: Through Christ we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.

One: Through Christ we want to die to the stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.

All: Through Christ we want to die to seeking our own success and salvation in disregard for the good of all God's children and creation.

One: This is God's promise, that if we die with Christ, we will also rise with Christ.

All: God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in Christ!

Hymn O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

#209

**O Love, how vast, how flowing free,
O Love how filled with ecstasy,
That God a human form should take,
and mortal be for mortals' sake.**

**Not as an angel visiting,
nor form celestial or biting,
But born in flesh God chose to be,
robed in our own humanity.**

**For us baptized, and fasting long,
for us was tempted by the wrong,
For us the pangs of hunger knew:
for us the Tempter overthrew.**

**For us was beaten, whipped, and tried,
and taken to be crucified,
So Love all this for us endured,
and dying, life for us procured.**

**Arising from the dead again,
our Sovereign goes on high to reign:
And sends the Spirit to abide
for strength and solace at our side.**

**Then for God's boundless love sing praise
through endless ages, countless days:
By Love we have been reconciled;
salvation gained through God's own Child.**

Young at Heart

Sue Ellen Coltrin

Opening Prayer

Jennifer Lukowicz

O God, you know us through and through. You know the many choices we face each day. We choose between right and wrong; we choose between greater and lesser evils; we choose what will be important to us in life. As you strengthened Jesus to choose rightly when he was tempted in the wilderness, so strengthen us through your presence and Spirit when we face temptation, that we may walk in the paths most pleasing to you. Amen

**Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Dave Buss

Savior's Prayer

Rev. Dave Buss

Our Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kindom 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 kindom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Music Breathe (Marie Barnett, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

First Reading Romans 10:8b-13 NRSVUE

Jennifer Lukowicz

Second Reading Luke 4:1-13 NRSVUE

Rev. Dave Buss

Message Tempting Actions

Rev. Dave Buss

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Dave Buss

Prayer of Dedication

God of grace, God of glory, receive us and our gifts and make us your own. Let our lives in every way reflect your love, which has no limits. May we, in whatever way we can, be justice for the poor, be food for the hungry, be water for those who thirst, be voice for the voiceless, be love for those least loved in our world. . May our gifts be part of the great cycle of receiving and giving that is your Way in this world. We receive your love and we give it freely to others. In Jesus' name we pray. 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. Dave Buss

Postlude And Can It Be (Thomas Campbell, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi