

Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 3, 2024

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 Let Us Break Bread Together
(African-American Spiritual, arr. Joel Raney)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 146)

Jim Jaeger

One: Praise the Holy One as long as we live.

Many: Praise the Creator, who makes our days, who trails our paths, and who gives us breath.

One: Praise the Holy One with our whole selves—mind, body, and soul.

Many: Trust in wisdom and honor, truth and love, grace and mercy.

One: Praise the Holy One for God is just, generous, compassionate, liberating, and near.

Many: The Holy One reigns, lifting up the lowly, humbling, the proud, and sustaining the righteous from generation to generation. Praise God!

Hymn The God of Abraham Praise vs 1, 2, 3

#24

**The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

**God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand
deep written on the human heart, in every land.**

**God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,
who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!**

Young at Heart

Sue Ellen Coltrin

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Opening Prayer

Jim Jaeger

Loving God, what joy it is to know your name. To know that when we call, you answer. When we seek you, we find you. When we long for you, we discover that you are already with us. Anchor our lives in your presence. Encourage us beyond our fear. Remind us of your goodness and miraculous works. Reaffirm the power you have made available and at work within us. Fortify us as your people who give and receive your love to your glory. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Rich Smith

Savior's Prayer

Rev. Rich Smith

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 He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought (William B Bradbury, arr. Mark Hayes)
Dr. Kyungsun Choi

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:1-9 NRSVUE

Jim Jaeger

Second Reading Mark 12:28-34 NRSVUE

Rev. Rich Smith

Message Rules for the Road

Hymn Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

#454

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

**Communion
Invitation**

Rev. Rich Smith

Blessing of the Elements

Rev. Smith: We thank you, Holy One, for your mercy is endless. You have filled all creation with light and life, and your glory stretches through the universe. You have called your people to Life, and through Jesus, you call us to celebrate and to love. Your Spirit calls us now, in this place, to join in covenant, in praise and in service. The bread of our being loved, the wine of our joy, stand as reminders that your love is ever-present. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we gather around this table and remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it and shared it with his friends, saying,

All: "Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you."

Rev. Smith: We remember that he also took and shared the cup of blessing, saying,

All: "This is the Cup of the New Covenant, poured out for you. As often as you drink of it, remember me."

Rev. Smith: We are here to remember, but we also remember and invoke the many other times that Jesus sat at table, with disciples, with friends, with outcasts and sinners, and the countless times since that God's people have gathered at table in his name, and known his presence.

All: May we come not only in remembrance, but also in celebration of your presence with us now, and full of anticipation and hope for the future that you give, walking in your light and led by your Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Smith: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is ready, and all are welcome.

**Sharing the Bread and Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

All: We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life of shared memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

**Invitation to Generosity
Offering Prayer**

Rev. Rich Smith

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace:
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace:
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace:
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace:
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Benediction

Rev. Rich Smith

Postlude I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes)
Dr. Kyungsun Choi