

# Welcome to Church of the Painted Hills

United Church of Christ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

## 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** Morning Has Broken (Traditional Gaelic Melody, arr. Joel Raney)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

### Call to Worship

Paula Noel

One: As we gather in worship, let us embrace a spirit of inclusion, where boundaries are crossed and all are welcomed.

**All: In faith, we seek unity, celebrating the diversity among us, as Christ did with open arms.**

One: Let us listen and learn from each other, breaking down the walls that divide us.

**All: Together, we affirm every voice, every story, as essential to the tapestry of our faith community.**

One: May our worship reflect God's infinite love, reaching out to all corners of humanity.

**All: Here and now, we declare: All are welcome, all are valued, in the spirit of Jesus Christ.**

**Hymn** Amazing Grace

#547

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me,  
whose word my hope secures;

**God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

**Young at Heart**

Sue Ellen Coltrin

**Opening Prayer**

Paula Noel

**Loving and Gracious God,  
As we come together today, hearts united in prayer and purpose, we thank You  
for the gift of this community and the diversity within it. Help us to see each other  
as You see us—valuable, loved, and integral to Your divine plan. Strengthen our  
bonds and deepen our understanding, that we might be a beacon of Your love  
and grace in the world. Guide our thoughts and actions, that we may walk in Your  
ways and reflect Your light in all we do. We ask this in the name of Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, who welcomes us all with open arms.  
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**

**Music** Grace (Early American Melody, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi

**First Reading** Isaiah 35:4-7a NRSVUE

Paula Noel

**Second Reading** Mark 7:24-37 NRSVUE

Sean Sosa

**Message** Boundless Grace: Embracing All in Christ's Love

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Invitation to Generosity  
Offering Prayer**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Gracious and Everlasting God,  
We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the abundant blessings You have poured  
upon us. Today, as we present our offerings, we dedicate them to Your service,**

trusting that every gift given is a step towards transforming our lives and the world. Bless these tithes and offerings, that they may be used to extend Your kingdom of love, peace, and justice. May our giving reflect our thankfulness, and may it multiply in Your hands to meet the needs of Your people near and far. We thank You for the privilege to share in Your work, and for the joy that comes from giving.

In Your holy name, we pray,  
Amen.

**Hymn** Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

#543

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
Where sound the cries of clan and race,  
Above the noise of selfish strife,  
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
On shadowed thresholds framed with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed,  
We catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness,  
From human griefs and burdened toil,  
From famished souls, from sorrows' stress,  
We know your heart does not recoil.

The cup of water given for you  
Still holds the freshness of your grace;  
Yet long these multitudes to view  
The deep compassion of your face.

O Savior, from the mountainside,  
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide,  
O tread the city's streets again;

Till all shall learn compassion's might,  
And follow where your feet have trod,  
Till glorious from your realm of light,  
Shall come the city of our God.

**Benediction**

Rev. Carlos Sosa

**Postlude** Amazing Grace (American Folk Melody, arr. Mark Hayes)

Dr. Kyungsun Choi