

Reign of Christ Sunday Sunday before Thanksgiving November 24, 2024

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk

* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Mike Welden, piano

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” “Sing to the Lord of the Harvest” “We Gather Together”

10:00am Gathering Song

1. En - ter, re-joice, and come in. Ent - er, re-joice, and come in.
2. God's love is ours to em - brace. God's love is ours to em - brace.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re-joice, and come in.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Mike Welden, piano

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

* Call to Worship

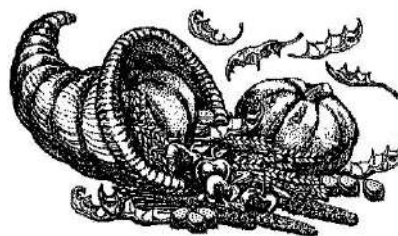
Megan Cassette

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, we pause to offer gratitude:

To relish our bounty, to remember our historical connection to the colonies, to appreciate the help others gave us, to honor the lives and gifts of the indigenous people our forebearers displaced and killed.

In holy presence, we renew our covenant to offer grace, seek peace, and share abundance. Together we will work to create a just world for all.

Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace, Amen.



“Give thanks with a grateful heart.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18

* Opening Hymn

423

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
 hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome God's spiritual embrace. Together we say:

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise – with words of praise and adoration, spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person. In harmony with you, Christ offers new words for our mouths; and tunes new intentions for our heartstrings. Through Jesus on earth, you presented a new understanding of power. Its wisdom is shaped by love, performed with instruments of justice and compassion. His life and death demonstrated how the love of power can be transformed into good as the power of love. We gather here today to celebrate your commandment that we love one another. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Servant Sovereign. Amen

Our Silent Prayers (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect and converse with God. A few deep breaths may help you to settle in. Relax, and enjoy the embrace of a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator of everything, wonderful counselor for everyone, hear now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

The Words of Encouragement

Some days are better. Some days are worse. Look for the blessing instead of the curse.

Amen! Blessing and praise to God forever. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Musical notation for the song 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!'. The music is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a fermata and a '4' above it. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second staff continues: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, - The third staff concludes: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Jim Nixon

These are the last words of David: “The oracle of David ben-Jesse, the oracle of the person God raised up the one anointed by the God of Jacob, the favorite of the songs of Israel: The Spirit of YHWH has spoken through me; God’s word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the rock of Israel said to me: ‘Rulers who govern with justice, who rule in the reverence of YHWH, are like the light of mornings at sunrise, a cloudless morning after a rain shower, that makes the grass of the earth sparkle.’ Yes, my house is right with YHWH! YHWH has made an everlasting covenant with me, its terms spelled out and faithfully obeyed; God will ensure my complete success and bring my every desire to fruition. But the ungodly are rootless, they are like abandoned thorns; none dare put out a hand to pick them up, none touch them but with a tool or a piece of wood; they are fit only for burning where they lie.”

Here ends the Hebrew scripture reading.

Anthem

“It Is Well With My Soul”

David Morrison, soloist

*** Gospel Reading**

John18:33-37

Allen Vander Linden

So, Pilate reenters the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. “Are you the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?”

Pilate replied, “Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world.”

Pilate said, “So, you’re a King?”

Jesus replied, “You say I’m a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Phyllis Ramsey

* Hymn of Response

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Blessed Assurance

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 95 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.

Tune: ASSURANCE Irr.
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Concerns:

Keep watch, dear God, with all who work, or watch, or weep this day. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

God, receive our prayer.

Joys and Thanksgivings:

Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of all creation. Keep us always thankful for your loving providence and help us be faithful stewards of your good and abundant gifts.

God, receive our prayer.

Sung Response

In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful

♩ = 69

In our God I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in our God I will re-joice. Look to God, do not be a-
 fraid, lift up your voic - es, our God is near, lift up your voic - es our God is near.

Ministry of Generosity — Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works

Our tithes and offerings are an expression of our hearts and our discipleship.

--Checks should be made out to "Bloom in the Desert Ministries." Checks and cash in envelopes with identification are recorded for your year-end convenience. **Online giving is available and easy!** Go to: www.bloominthedesert.org and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music "Now Thank We All Our God"

Mike Welden, piano

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Megan Cassette

Source of deliverance and hope, you invite us to live evermore in your favor. We offer ourselves to you in response to Christ's call. Out of the abundance of your love we offer gifts to you. From the storehouse of your mercy, we bring you treasures. Accept the gleanings of our labor as we lay them before you. To you belong the glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen.**

Please rise, as you are able, in celebration, as we sing the Doxology.

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our
gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly
Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Our Father, our Eternal Source, our Mother, our Creator, and our Parent in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom, your Kin-dom, your realm, and your dream, come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, our sins and our debts, as we forgive those who trespass against us, sin against us, or are our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For yours is the kingdom, the Kin-dom, the realm, the dream, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-13, RSV)

* Sending Hymn

77

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

*Authors's original words are "works" and "mighty."

WORDS: Stuart K. Hine, 1953
 MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

HOW GREAT THOU ART
 Irr. with Refrain

© 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;
 how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my
 soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Benediction

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Our worship has ended. Our service begins. What does God need from us?

“Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.”

Continue to serve with faith and love,
 depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,
 through extravagant generosity of time and resources,
 meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and unheard.

We will go now seeking justice, sharing compassion, and promoting hope in the world.

My dear friends in faith, will you go into your worlds to be people of God in Christ’s name?

We will. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Mike Welden, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Mike Welden**, piano, and **David Morrison**, soloist for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Megan Cassette**, **Jim Nixon** and **Allen Vander Linden**, for serving as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **Phyllis Ramsey** for presenting our Commentary today.

--Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Mike Kreiser** and **Charlie Phelps-Ramos** for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan** and **Brooks** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Phyllis Ramsey** in celebration of 17 years at Bloom and in honor of her parents' anniversary.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405 833-1817 for assistance.

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 56 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3

--- Facebook Live Views: 17 --Facebook Total Views: 152 --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$6,979 Electronic Giving: \$4,489

Permanence Fund: \$240 Cumulative: \$341,356

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Ralphs #PG245.) as your designated charity to benefit from a small percentage of your purchase totals. Every little bit helps!

Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly online giving page or visit www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate.



--**The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation** by Priests for Equality and the **Revised Common Lectionary** are the usual references for Sunday morning scripture readings.

--**Liturgy and prayers** are original, sourced, and often adapted.

Great is Thy Faithfulness, by William Runyan, arr. by Smitty Price and Harlan Rogers, © 1951, this arrangement 1986 by Hope Publishing

Sing to the Lord of the Harvest, by Johann Steurlein, arr. by Jan Sanborn, this arrangement © 2003 by Alfred Publishing

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Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. by Jerry Ray, © 1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be December 11 at 2:00 pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Only Bloom members have a vote. Contact **Lynda Toland** to receive the Zoom Invitation.

--**Congregation Meetings** are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is February 16 after church in the Hospitality Room and on Zoom.

Church Growth and New Member Involvement Ministry

--If you are interested in making a covenant as a member or associate member with Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC, please contact **John DiNapoli**, dinojnps@gmail.com or **Bill Wallace** at adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org.

--For more information on the United Church of Christ, visit www.ucc.org.

--Persons seeking Christian Baptism please call **760-327-3802** for pastoral response.

Nurture and Community Life Ministry

--We Care: If you know of someone in the hospital, or who might enjoy a pastoral call, including yourself, please call the church office at **760 327-3802** and leave a message.

Education Ministry

Book Discussion Group: The Book study is open to books that you might suggest for our next discussion. Please forward them to GaryLange13@gmail.com

Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch served weekdays:** Come serve lunch at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs on Mondays and Tuesdays, located at 1555 E. Alejo Rd, Palm Springs 10:30 am–1:00 pm PDT. On Wednesdays, lunch is served at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 125 W El Alameda, Palm Springs 10:45 am-1 pm. On Thursdays, lunch is served at Our Lady of Solitude, 474 N Belardo, Palm Springs and on Fridays at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 204 S. El Segundo, in Palm Springs. Volunteers needed each day. Contact **Jim Nixon** at nixonsf@aol.com.

Our focused ministries include:

- School children’s benevolence – backpacks, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.
- Relieving food insecurity – Lunch Mondays through Fridays, food bank support.
- National church’s wider mission – “5 for 5” UCC mission offerings, disaster relief.
- Spiritual and personal development – worship, music, bible study, book clubs, lending library.
- Loving presence – birthday/anniversary cards, eyeglasses recycling, Us Plus local outreach.
- For peace action and social justice email alerts, sign up with **Jim Nixon** at nixonsf@aol.com.

You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection,
or leave it with the ushers for recycling.

Bloom Happenings This Week

Monday Nov. 25	Tuesday Nov. 26	Wednesday Nov. 27	Thursday Nov. 28	Friday Nov. 29	Saturday Nov. 30	Sunday Dec. 1
<p>10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist</p>	<p>10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist</p>	<p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul’s Episcopal</p>	<p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00pm Women of Bloom on Zoom</p>		<p>10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live</p>

God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.

Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.





Welcome

Bloom in the Desert (Bloom) is a United Church of Christ (UCC) that had Methodist beginnings. This liberal Protestant church was born in 2002, as an independent ministry in collaboration with Methodist organizations seeking to start and promote inclusive Christian ministries. Sunday worship began on March 9, 2003. The fledgling congregation decided in 2004 to pursue standing in the UCC, which was established by vote of the Eastern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC on October 29, 2005, welcoming Bloom as a dual covenant, peace, and justice congregation. Bloom is a member of the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition. Bloom is governed congregationally according to our unique bylaws. All Bloom members and friends are ministers in our faith. Our Open Council Team and congregation meetings provide leadership and decision making to empower our vision, mission, and core values.

Our Vision

Bloom chooses to build a loving, safe, inclusive faith community that is intellectually challenging, emotionally supportive and filled with the strength, integrity, and social responsibility that spirituality inspires.

Our Mission

Guided by teachings of Jesus Christ, Bloom is a community of believers who strive to uplift and heal one another. We gather to worship God, witness our faith in the living of our lives and uphold one another in Christian living. United in our diversity we are inclusive and embracing. We agitate for God's peace and justice in our community and around the world.

Our Core Values

- We are a people of God's extravagant welcome.
- We are a people of covenant.
- We work toward a just and loving world through service and generosity.
- We listen for the still-speaking God.
- We encourage a life of inquisitive and thoughtful searching.
- We are grounded by Christian faithfulness.
- We celebrate the joy in life.

Sunday Worship 10 am

Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264
Rev. “Jeff” Munnis, Interim Minister — 415-747-9114 — jeff@bloominthedesert.org
Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org
Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org
Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-327-3802 — www.bloominthedesert.org — info@bloominthedesert.org