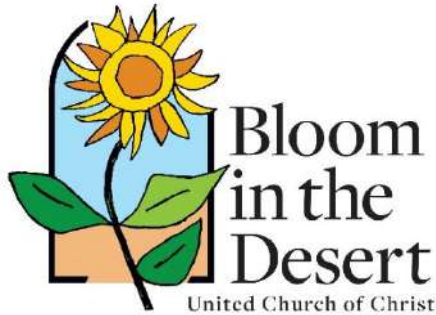




Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

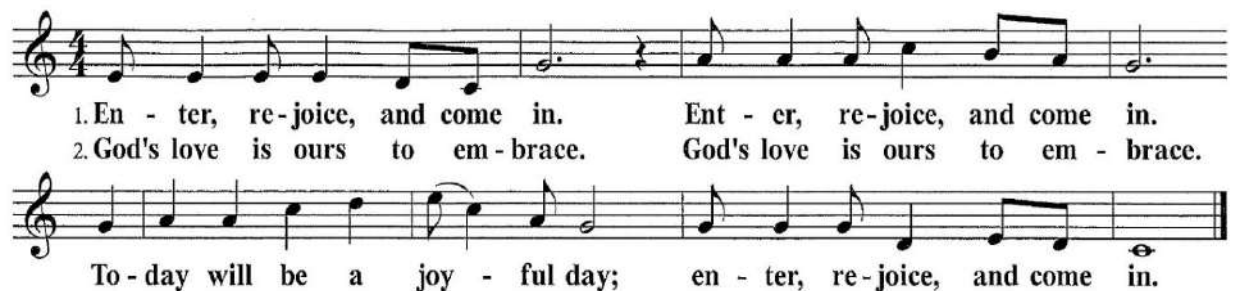
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Hymns, Part 21” arr. by Wayne Yankie

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Nocturne no. 6 in D flat” by Gabriel Fauré

Call to Worship

Paul Gibb

We are always arriving in the presence of our living and compassionate God. God made us
We journey along the Jesus road, stopping now to gather as people seeking relevance and
rejuvenation.

**Our story says Jesus entered the Roman-occupied Jerusalem and was praised
by many, then reviled and plotted against by some.**

The branches are signs of faith and knowledge, which are tools for overcoming fear,
thoughtless bureaucracy, political polarization, idolatry, and death.

**We who wave them covenant to walk the path of Christ, mindful of his
passion including the irony of his triumphant entry. We pray for and stand
with all who continue to suffer violence, oppression, and war.**

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

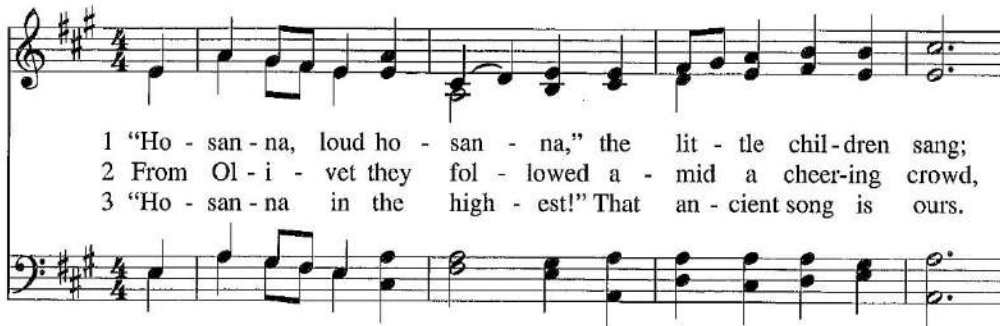
* Opening Hymn

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

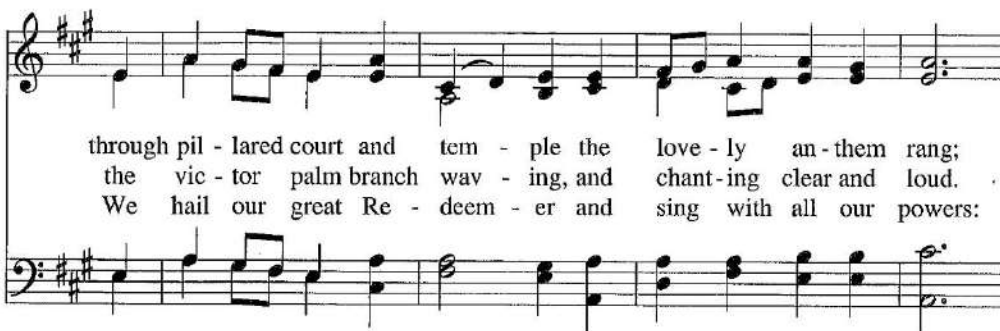
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Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

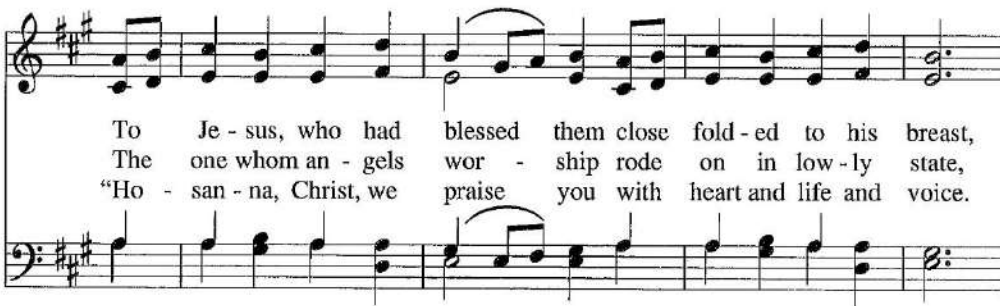
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



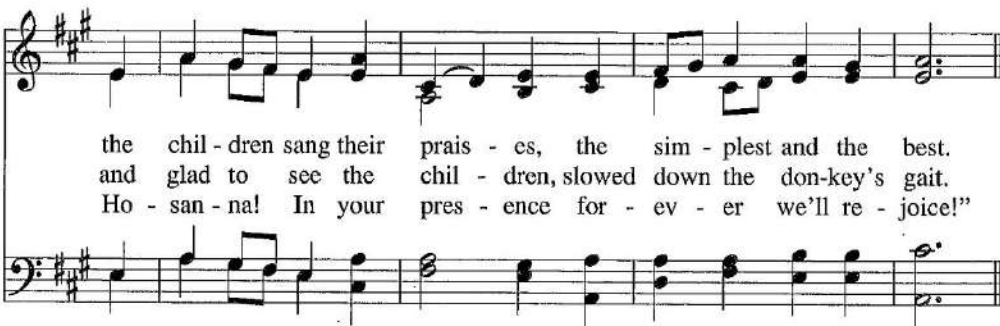
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now is a time to accept the embrace of God found in openness and reconciliation:
Each of us travels life's road making choices, which impact us and others. Eternal God, when we tell others where to go but we want to stay as we choose, guide us to results and destinations of justice, and compassion, and love. When we strive to imitate the lifestyles of the rich and famous but ignore the plight of those who are poor and powerless, teach us new ways to live. God of grace and truth, we remember Jesus' willingness to ride into pain and deception in the quest to empower the everlasting meaning of your love. Empower us by your Holy Spirit, dear God, to deepen our determination to follow Jesus, even when that means going into uncertainty and discomfort, embracing struggles and sufferings of others. On this "long haul", and in these ways inspire us to remember the benefits of connecting with you and your grace.

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 actively with God. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

God of our history and our future, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

As we continue to make our way toward the fear-inducing cross, let's do so with holy confidence. We need not perpetuate the very fears and oppression that manipulates the masses to harm themselves. Instead let us find in God the strength and courage we need to overcome our challenges.

(From "The Long Haul" 2022 Lent devotional based on Psalm 27: 1, March 18, Phiwa Langeni, adapted.)

Thanks be to God. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Carl Toland

I thank you YHWH, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

Let Israel say it:
“Your love is everlasting!”

Open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, YHWH!

This is the gate of YHWH,
and only the upright can enter!

Thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

It was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;

this is YHWH’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

This is the day YHWH has made—
let us celebrate with joy!

Please, YHWH, please save us!

Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!

Blessings on the one who comes in the
Name of YHWH!

We bless you from YHWH’s Temple!

YHWH is God

and God has enlightened us.

Join the festal procession!

With palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
Thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

Thank you, YHWH for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

~Inclusive Language Version

* Gospel Reading

Luke 19:28-48

Carol Moore

“After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, “It is written,

‘My house shall be a house of prayer’:
but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

~New Revised Standard Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Tim Rogers

Hymn of Response

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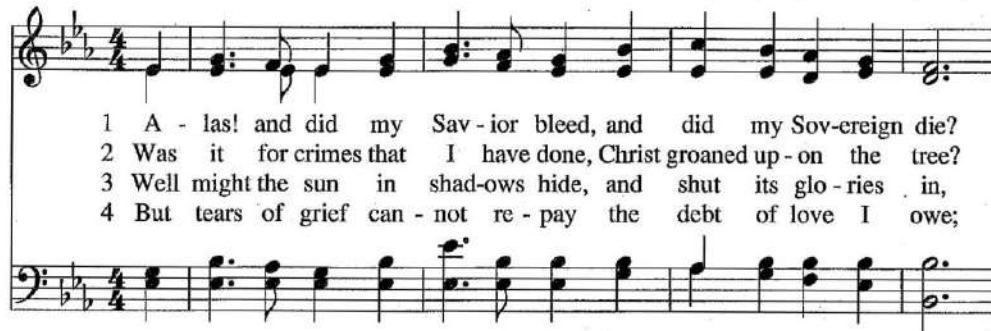
Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

(At the Cross)

Gal. 2:20; 6:14; Phil. 2:2-12; Heb. 12:1-3

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

Refrain by Ralph E. Hudson, 1885; alt.



1 A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my Sov - ereign die?
2 Was it for crimes that I have done, Christ groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in shad - ows hide, and shut its glo - ries in,
4 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would God de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y! Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
When Je - sus Christ my Sav - ior died for hu - man crea - tures' sin.
Here, Christ, I give my - self a - way as all that I can do!



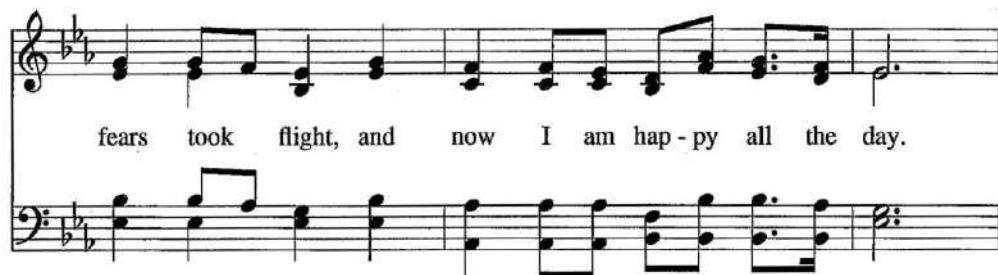
Refrain
At the cross, at the cross where I first found the light, and the



bur - den of my heart rolled a - way, It was there by faith all my
rolled a-way,

After discharge from the Union army, Ralph Hudson taught music at Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where he founded a publishing company. He wrote the music for this Isaac Watts text and added a familiar camp-meeting chorus as a refrain.

*Tune: HUDSON C.M. with refrain
Ralph E. Hudson, 1885
Alternate setting: MARTYRDOM*



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

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



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" 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Sonata no. 8 in A flat, movement 2" by Ludwig van Beethoven

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

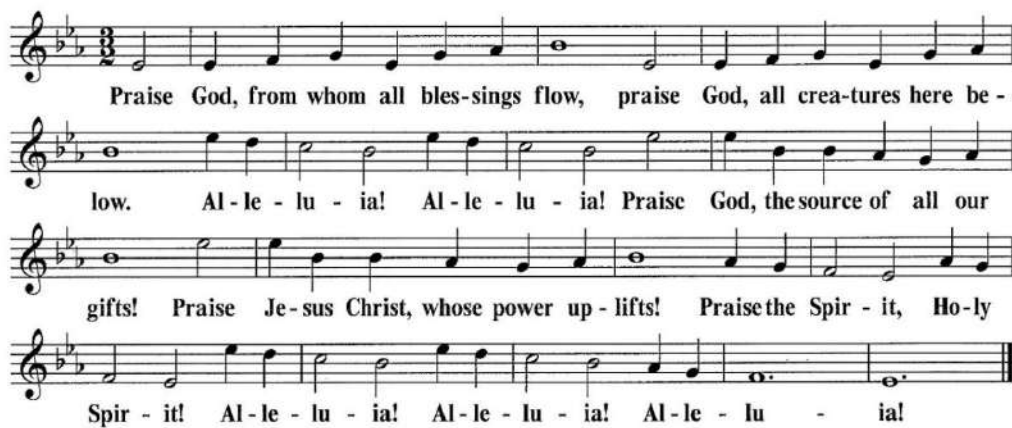
Glory be to you. O God, for the gift of creation and its bounteous mercies. Praise be to you, O Christ, for redeeming love and the promise of new life. Thanks be to you, O Holy Spirit, for guidance, counsel, and abiding revelation. O blessed Trinity, we honor and worship you in presenting our offerings. Take our lives and let them be consecrated, O God, to thee.
Amen.

(from "When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship", James G. Kirk, adapted)

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

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Tim Rogers

Our Father, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

Benediction

Rev. Tim Rogers

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

Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our 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!

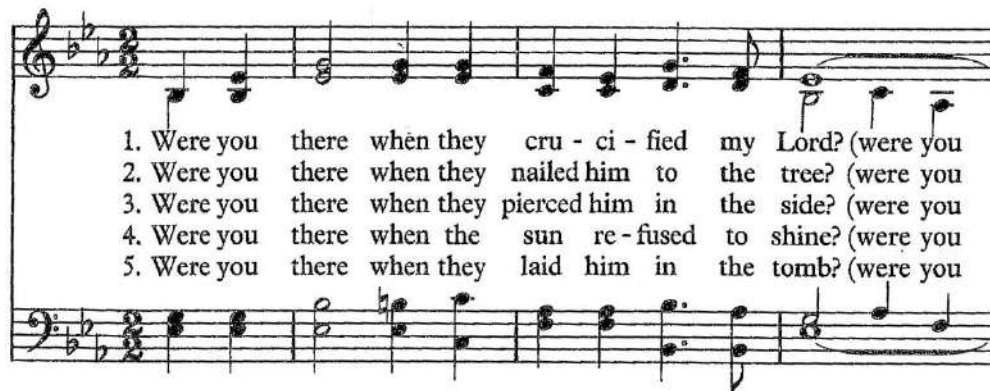
Passing of the Peace

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

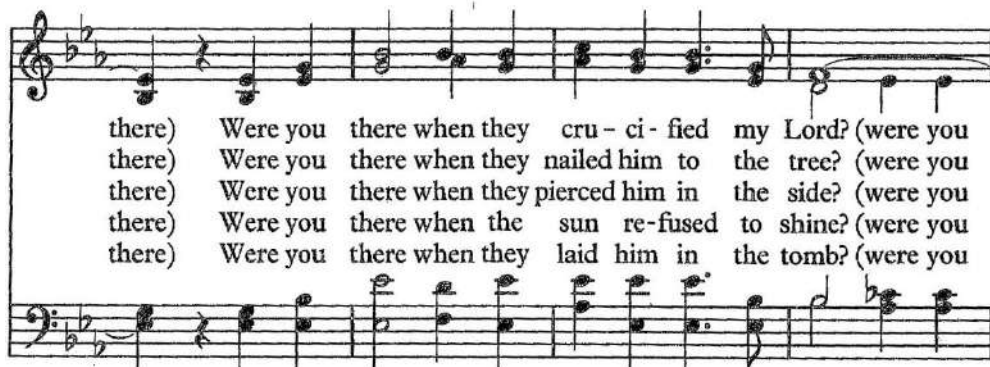
✱ **Sending Hymn** (the final verse will be sung without accompaniment)

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Were You There



1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (were you
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you
4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? (were you
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you



there) Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (were you
there) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you
there) Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you
there) Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? (were you
there) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you

Continued on the following page.

Refrain

there) Oh! some-times it caus-es

me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble. Were you

there when they cru-ci-fied my Lord? (were you there)
 there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
 there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)
 there when the sun re-fused to shine? (were you there)
 there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

WERE YOU

The Rev'd Tim Rogers is a transplant to the desert from Boston, MA. He has a love of music and is a member of The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus. Tim has worked for over 20 years as an ordained Episcopal priest in parish, hospital, and hospice settings. Tim is a former staff member of Easton Mountain Gay Men's Retreat Center in upstate New York. He is currently an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist at Hope and Healing Counseling, here in Palm Springs. Tim has worked for the empowerment and integration of body, mind, and spirit of the LGBTQ+ communities for most of his adult life.

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Dr. Denis Moreen**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Paul Gibb**, **Carl Toland** and **Carol Moore** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Ray Allen** for serving as worship leader today and a **special thank you** to **Rev. Tim Rogers** for providing our commentary today

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

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Bob Patnode** and **Charlotte Clement**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** 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 **Allen Vander Linden** and **Michael Thompson** celebrating their 20 years together and their time with Bloom.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 51 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

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

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Total offerings \$729

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$252 Cumulative: \$347

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert UCC (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.

The Piano Treasury of Hymns, arr. By Wayne Yankie, ©2006 by Shawnee Press

Nocturne No. 6 in D flat, by Gabriel Fauré, public domain

Sonata no. 8 in A flat, by Ludwig van Beethoven, public domain

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

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

--**Congregation Meetings** are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is May 18 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**, dinoinps@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

-The Bloom Book Club: meets Tuesdays, at 6pm on Zoom. We will be discussing our new book, "Falling Upwards" Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

For more information, contact Gary Lange at 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 – "Shoes for Students", 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 April 14	Tuesday April 15	Wednesday April 16	Thursday April 17	Friday April 18	Saturday April 19	Sunday April 20
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist 6:00pm Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		6:00am Sunrise Service at Demuth 10:00am Easter Sunday at Demuth and on Facebook Live

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

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

Bloom Book Club Selection — "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life Study Guide" by Richard Rohr. The book study on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

I would suggest reading Chapter 2.

For more information contact Gary Lange at garylange13@gmail.com

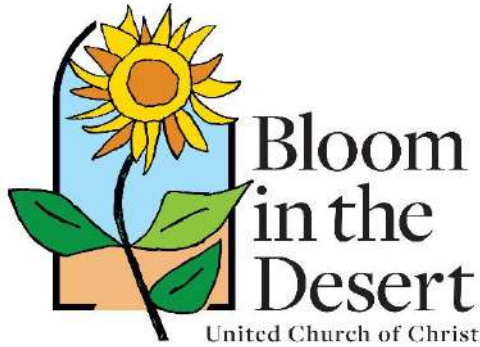
Below is the Zoom link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Congregation Meeting

Sunday, May 18 ~ after the service in the hospitality room
and on zoom.



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
On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951-663-7261 — rflangx25@gmail.com
Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org
Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassistant@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