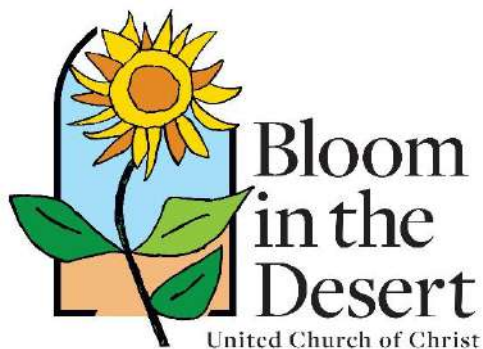




Asian American Pacific Islander Month

Memorial Day Weekend

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 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

Mike Welden, piano

“Sacred Road” “It Is Well With My Soul” “Children of the Heavenly Father”

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Jim Nixon, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Mike Welden, piano

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Call to Worship

Ray Stimson

Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of remembrance.

We remember fallen military veterans and the sacrifice they made for the sake of others. (Pause)

Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of thanksgiving.

We thank God for brave women and men who gave their lives so that we may worship as we decide, regardless of creed or belief. (Pause)

We gather as a community dedicated to loving all as God first loves us.

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

* Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Memorial Day Weekend Prayer

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

Almighty and all-loving God, this weekend we honor our military friends and relatives who lived and died around the world. They are worthy women and men – all colors, creeds, and kinds – who gave their all when called upon to serve their country. We know you bless them and honor such dedication. Their service in the continual drive to boost freedoms, and safety, and honest heritage for all of us is inspiring. We bless their families for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, for their many different contributions toward victories over tyranny and oppression – including self-doubt and personal fears. We respect them. We are thankful for them. We honor them. We miss them, and we know that you received these special people with unconditional care. For all of us, with common hearts and minds, in the paths we walk, we pray in love for happiness and peace. Amen. ~Joanna Fuchs, adapted

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.)

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of peace, receive now our heartfelt silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Jesus, our shepherd when we are lost, our comfort in times of fear and loss: with a power greater than a thousand suns, your Resurrection surrounds us with divine love. Let us rest safe in your arms, and share your love in every word and action of our lives.

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

Genesis 1:1-31

Bob Patnode

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, “Light be!” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

Then God said, “Now, make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed — the second day.

Then God said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground appear.” So it was. God called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the waters “Sea.” And God saw that this was good.

Then God said, “Earth: produce vegetation — plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed, and every kind of fruit with its seed in it. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the third day.

Then God said, “Now, let there be lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.” So it was: God made the two great lights, the greater one to illuminate the day, and a lesser one to illumine the night. Then God made the stars as well, placing them in the expanse of the sky, to shed light on the earth, to govern both day and night, and separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the fourth day.

God then said, “Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!” And so it was: God created the great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. God saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the waters of the seas! Birds, abound on the earth!” Evening came, and morning followed — the fifth day.

Then God said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul — cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

Humankind was created as God’s reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them. God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth—and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all living things on the earth!” God then told them, “Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food, and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground—everything that has a living soul in it—I give all the green plants for food.” So it was. God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good—very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

Mark 7:24-30

Phyllis Ramsey

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the territory of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a certain house and wanted no one to recognize him but he could not pass unrecognized.

A woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She approached Jesus and fell at his feet. The woman who was Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, begged Jesus to expel the demon from her daughter.

He told her, “Let the children of the household satisfy themselves at table first. It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She replied, “Yes, Rabbi, but even the dogs under the table eat the family’s scraps.”

Then Jesus said to her, “For saying this, you may go home happy; the demon has left your daughter.” When she got home, she found her daughter in bed and the demon gone.

~Inclusive Language Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Larry Houts

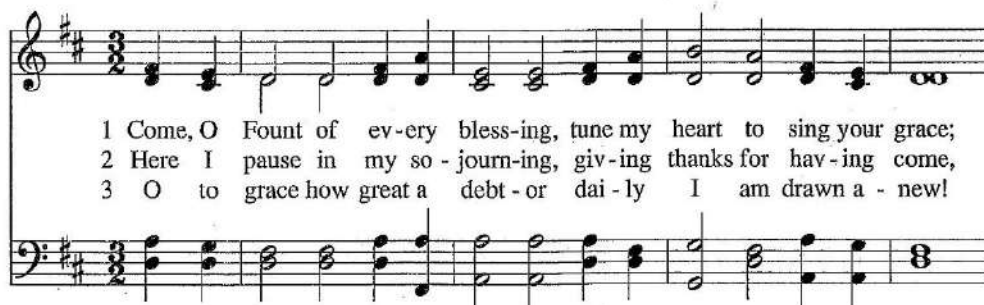
Hymn of Response

459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

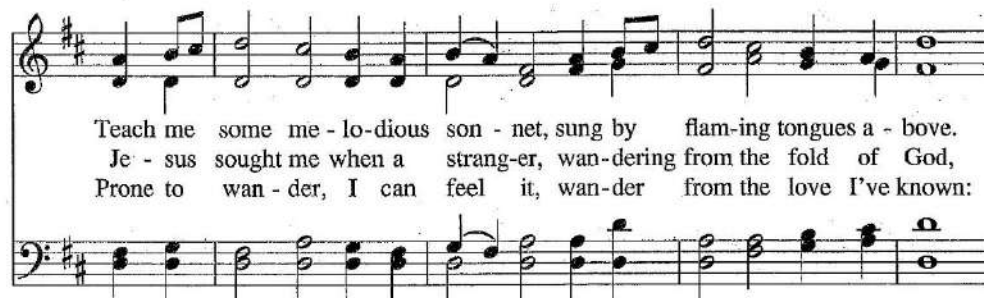
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



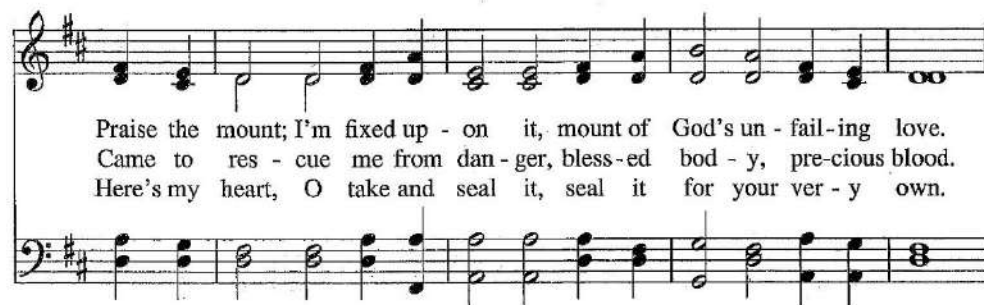
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Jim Nixon, 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

♩ = 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 voice - es, our God is near, lift up your voice - 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" 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

Mike Welden, piano

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Phyllis Ramsey

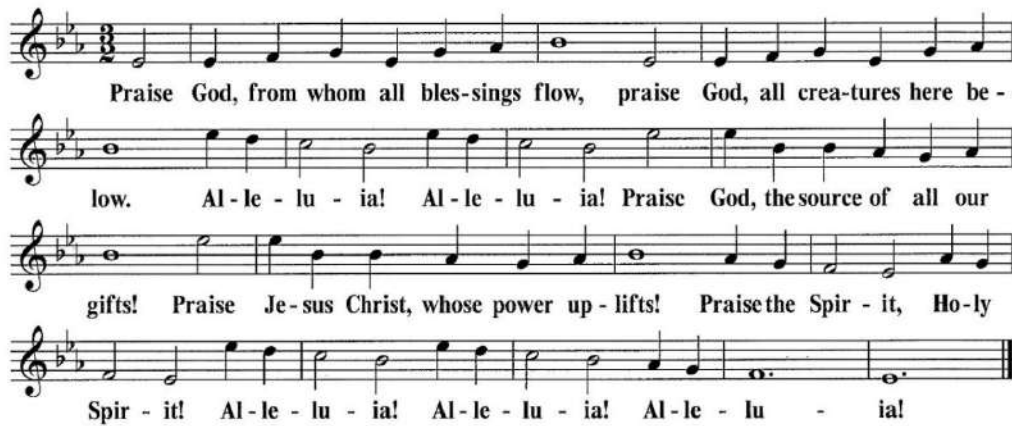
God of eternity, enthroned in glory, we come before you bringing our gifts. We humbly submit to your sovereign will. You are the source of all righteousness; we offer ourselves as ambassadors for peace. You are the source of justice; we give of our substance to alleviate hunger and want. You are the means by which all the earth shall prosper; we shall go into all nations and bless your name.

~from "When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship" by James G. Kirk

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

Jim Nixon, Worship Leader

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

* Sending Hymn

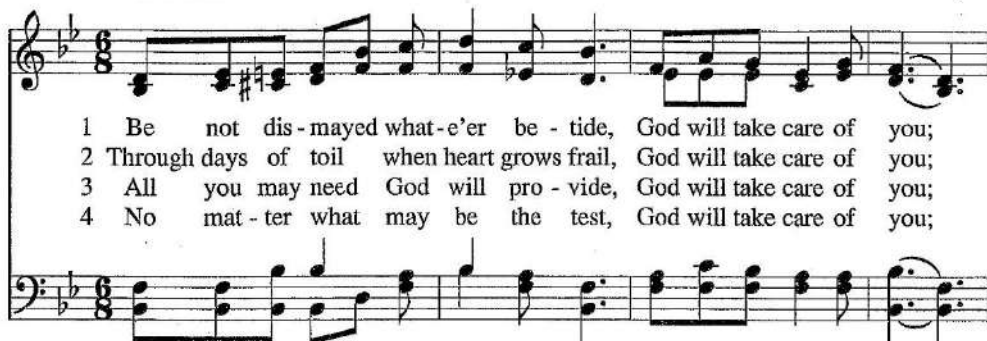
Be Not Dismayed

(God Will Take Care of You)

460

Civilla D. Martin, 1904; alt.

Ps. 91

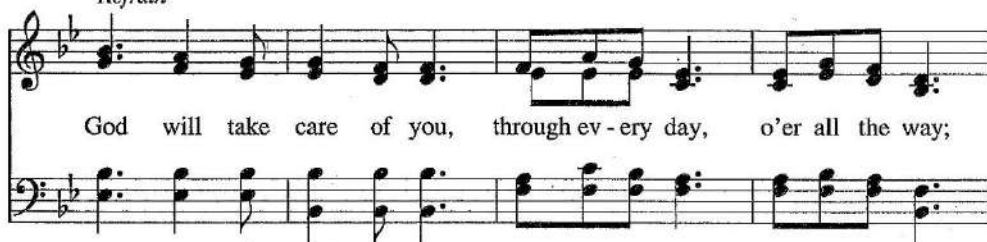


1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be - tide, God will take care of you;
 2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
 3 All you may need God will pro - vide, God will take care of you;
 4 No mat - ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;



Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.
 When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.
 Noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.
 Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;



God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
 take care of you

This early hymn by Civilla Martin was written in 1904 and set to music by her husband, a Baptist minister, as a contribution to a songbook he was compiling for a school. This is one of several such collaborations.

Tune: MARTIN C.M. with refrain
W. Stillman Martin, 1905

Benediction

Jim Nixon, Worship Leader

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 from wherever you are 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

Mike Welden, piano

"My Country 'Tis of Thee"

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Ray Stimson, Bob Patnode** and **Phyllis Ramsey** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Jim Nixon** for serving as worship leader today and a special thank you to **Larry Houts** for presenting our commentary today.

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

--Thank you to our greeter and welcome table hosts, **Jason Romine, Gwen Rustin** and **Sheila Dell**. Thank you to **Carol Moore** and her crew who set up our hospitality table.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Mike Kreiser** and **Charlie Phelps-Ramos**, 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 **Ron and Linda Lang** in memory of Bloomers who have passed on.

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

Last Week's Participation

Sunday 10am--Souls Present at Demuth: 51 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 4

--- Facebook Live Views: 15

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$771 On-line Giving: \$1,023

Eastertide Offering: \$500 Cumulative: \$2,682 Goal: \$6,000

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.

Sacred Road by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

It Is Well With My Soul, by Philip P. Bliss, arr. by Harlan Rogers and Smitty Price ©1986 by Marantha! Music

Children of the Heavenly Father, arr. by James E. Clemens, ©1995 by Harold Flammer Music

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, by John Bacchus Dykes and William Whiting, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 2002 by Hal Leonard Corporation

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, arr. by Michael Larkin, ©20024 by MorningStar Music Publishing

My Country, 'Tis of Thee, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©2002 by Hal Leonard Corporation

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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 October 12 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 5pm 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 May 26	Tuesday May 27	Wednesday May 28	Thursday May 29	Friday May 30	Saturday May 31	Sunday June 1
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist Memorial Day	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist 5:00pm 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		10:am Sunday Service 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 5:00 pm on Zoom.

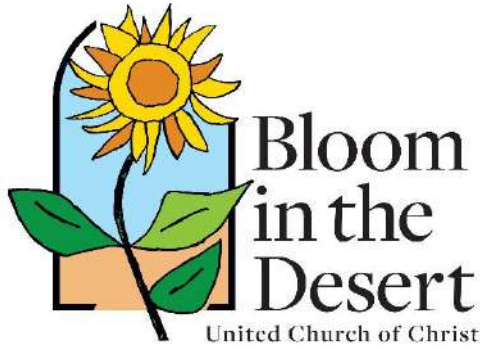
Read Chapter 7.

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



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