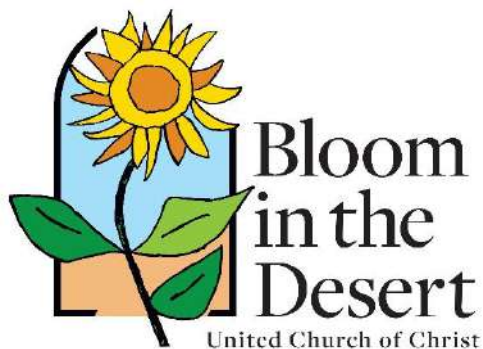




Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 2025

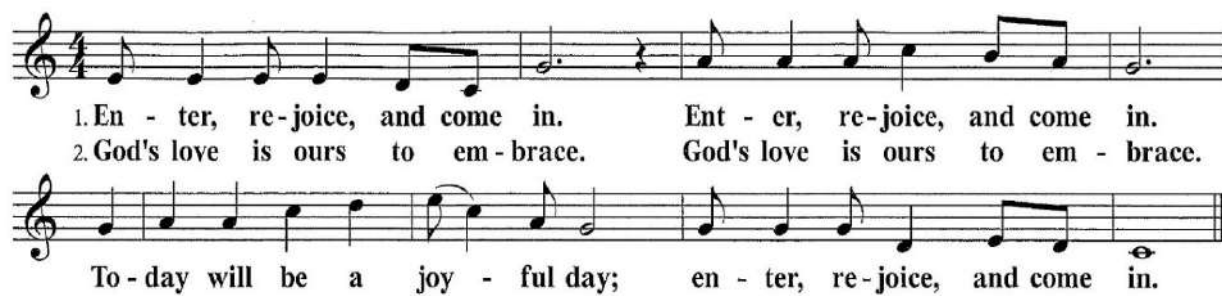
For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

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

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

John DiNapoli, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan and Lynda Toland, piano

“Wondrous Love”

Call to Worship

Larry Houts

We gather around this common table to remember Jesus and being reconciled with God and each other. Our faith offers this simple action as an astonishing miracle of life. Now we come to renew our souls with the power of living faith. We gather for safe harbor in ministries of sacrament, word, prayer, and song.

In our sacred vessel we can offer and appreciate eternal friendship. Here we embrace each other regardless of our differences. We learn to live in peace.

We welcome the renewing Spirit of God. And celebrate!

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

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now we enter the embrace of God, to find openness and reconciliation:

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war, for we know that you made the world in such a way that we must find our own paths to peace within ourselves and with our neighbors. We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation, for you have already given us resources to feed the whole world, which can happen when we use them wisely. We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out prejudice, for you already gave us eyes to see the good in all, if we would only use them rightly. We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair, for you already gave us the power to clear slums and give hope, which happens when we use our power justly. We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease, for you already gave us great minds to search out cures and healings, as when we use them constructively. Therefore, we pray instead, O God, for strength, determination, and will-power, to do what we can, to do what we must, to do instead of only to pray, to become, instead of merely to wish.

(Jack Riemer, Jewish theologian, 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

Gracious God energizes us with freedom to create a new world already loved.

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

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

First Scripture Reading

Romans 12:9-18, 20-21

Carol Moore

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good.

Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect.

Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ

Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer.

Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality.

Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward everyone.

Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited.

Don't repay evil with evil.

Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people.

Do all you can to be at peace with everyone.

But there is more:

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them drink.

For in doing so, you will heap burning coals
upon their heads.

Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

Here ends the first Scripture reading.

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

Wayne Sinclair

“You’ve heard the commandment, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you, offer no resistance whatsoever when you’re confronted with violence. When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer the other. If anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, hand over your coat as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go two miles. Give to those who beg from you, and don’t turn your back on those who want to borrow from you.

“You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbor—but hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun rise on bad and good alike; God’s rain falls on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Don’t tax collectors do as much? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers, what is so praiseworthy about that? Don’t Gentiles do as much? Therefore, be perfect, as Abba God in heaven is perfect.”

~Inclusive Language Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

“It’s An Inside Job”

Rev. Paula Durrant

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

John DiNapoli, 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 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” 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

Malcolm Swan and Lynda Toland, piano

“Spanish Dance”

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

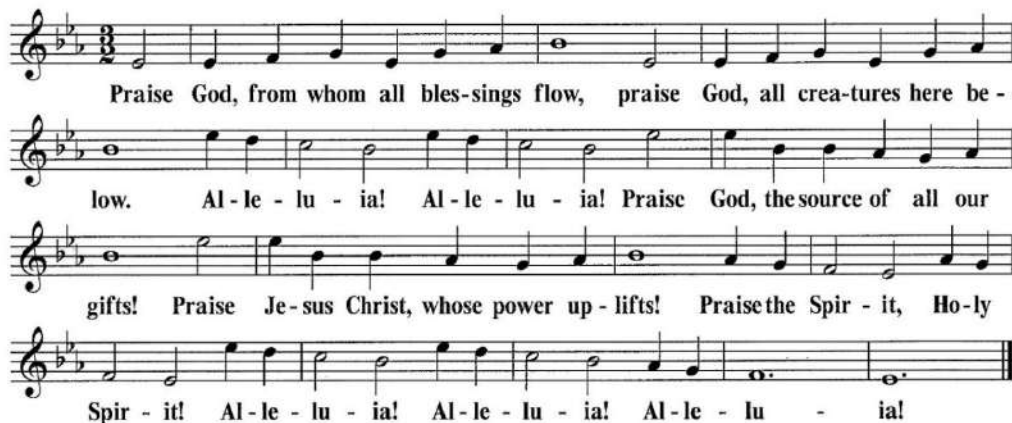
O righteous God, we have heard your Word, how we ought to obey you. We have confessed our faith in Christ our Savior. Full of your Spirit, we come now bringing our offerings. They symbolize our thanksgiving and reflect our commitment. Accept them and use them to spread the good news of salvation over all the earth. Amen.

~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 Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

Rev. Paula Durrant

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

Carol Moore: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars, and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

The musical score is written for a choir or group, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics in Spanish and English. The Spanish lyrics are: 'San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My'. The English lyrics are: 'cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios, heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.' The score includes chord markings: C, G7, C, F, C, F, C, Am, F, G7, C.

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios,
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Wayne Sinclair: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God's people. Remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying,

“This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me.”

Carol Moore: After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said,

“This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me.”

Wayne Sinclair: Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of grain and grape, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Rev. Paula Durrant

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus welcomed everyone present. We do this in remembrance of him. We do this historically... globally... personally.... For we believe Christ is the host. Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to come forward. If you wish to remain in your seat, you are welcome to relax and enjoy the music. If you wish to be served at your seat, please raise your hand as the line ends, so the servers will come to you. Now, let all who wish to come, come, for God's table is ready.

(After a moment, ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion.)

Communion Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Live to Love”

The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Paula Durrant

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

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har- mo- ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy 'and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o- ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Benediction

Rev. Paula Durrant

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

Malcolm Swan and Lynda Toland, piano

"The Entertainer"

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Malcolm Swan and Lynda Toland**, piano, for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Larry Houts, Carol Moore** and **Wayne Sinclair** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Lynda Toland** for serving as worship leader today and a special thank you to **Rev. Paula Durrant** 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 host, **Jason Romine**, and **Sheila Dell**. Thank you to **Carol Moore** and her crew who set up our hospitality table.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Jim Nixon** and **Randy Zeese**, 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 **Brian Schimpf** in celebration of Cindy's birthday.

--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: 46 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 6

--- Facebook Live Views: 16

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$1,938 On-line Giving: \$252

Eastertide Offering: \$500 Cumulative: \$3,362 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.

Wondrous Love traditional melody

Spanish Dance, by Moszkowski

Live to Love, by Ian Cardell

The Entertainer, by Scott Joplin

All music contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved

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 June 2	Tuesday June 3	Wednesday June 4	Thursday June 5	Friday June 6	Saturday June 7	Sunday June 8
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 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>

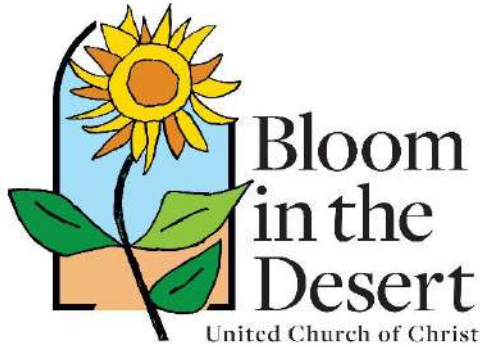
-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Spirituals in Concert

A Juneteenth Commemoration



On Thursday, June 19th, Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer will be presenting tenor Joel Brown and pianist Joel Baker in a one-hour recital of spirituals at her home. This Juneteenth concert is a benefit for Bloom, donation requested. Signup sheet in hospitality space. Seating is limited to 40, and Bloomers will have priority to reserve until June 6th, after which remaining seats will open up to the larger community. Concert begins at 7pm, with refreshments afterward. More information is in BloomNotes.



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