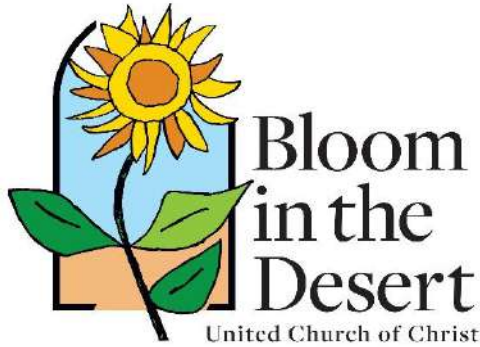




Second Sunday after Pentecost

Honoring Juneteenth

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

June 22, 2025

United Church of Christ

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center

Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

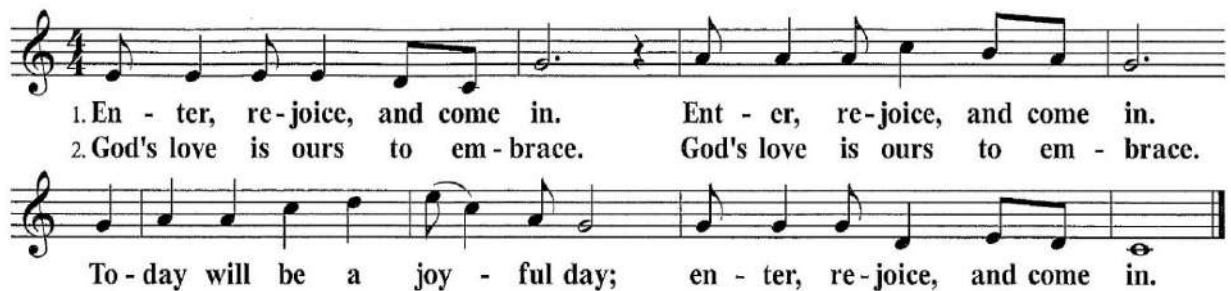
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Jesus Loves Me” with “Jesus Loves Even Me”

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Carol Moore, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Blessed Assurance”

Call to Worship

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

God, we come to worship in gratitude for the freedom of those long oppressed, in celebration of Juneteenth.

Empower us to see, acknowledge, and liberate those who continue to suffer under slavery of many kinds.

Help us love and appreciate, and to be, the people of love wherever we are called.

Hear us as we sing your praise with thanksgiving. Fill us with your Spirit as we learn to carry out your purpose in all the world.

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

* Opening Hymn

423

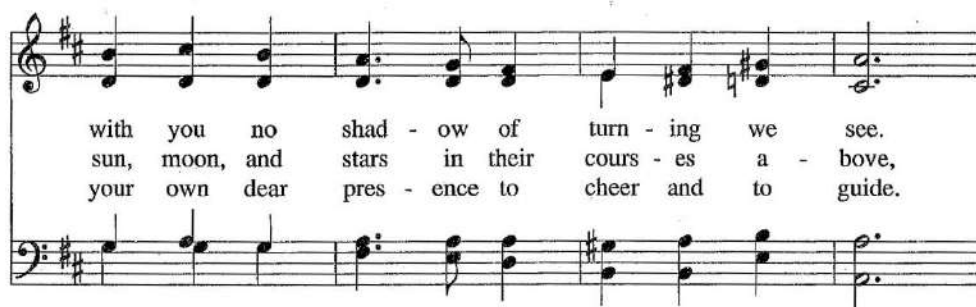
Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

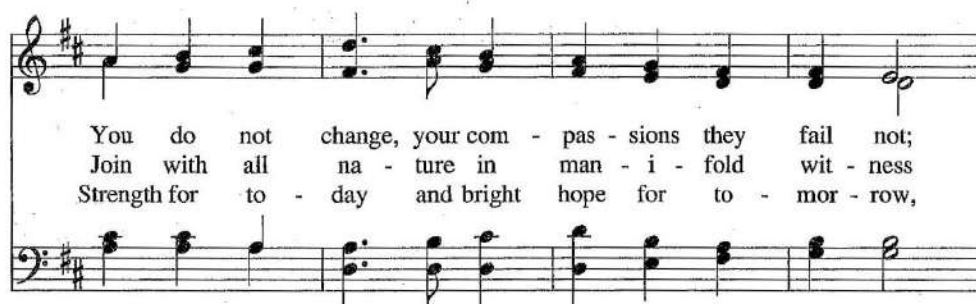
Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.



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 the spiritual embrace of God. At this moment in our lives, we pray for God's guidance.

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and at my departing. (Anonymous)

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, sovereign of peace, receive now our heartfelt silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

“God’s love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God’s love never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8a)

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 22:19-28

Gerald Chester

But you, YHWH, don't be far off!
My strength, hurry to help me!

Rescue my life from the sword,
my dear life from the power of these dogs!

Save me from the lion's mouth,
my poor soul from the wild bull's horns!

Then I will proclaim your Name to my sisters and brothers,
and praise you in the full assembly:

“You who worship YHWH, give praise!
Daughters of Leah, daughters of Rachel, glorify YHWH!
Sons of Jacob, fall down and worship!

For God has not despised—not disdained—
the suffering of those in pain!
God didn't hide
but answered them when they cried for help!"

You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly,
and I will fulfill my vows in the presence of your worshippers.

Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied,
those who seek you will give you praise—
long life to their hearts!

The whole earth, from one end to the other,
will remember and come back to you;
all the families of the nations will bow down to you.

For yours is the kingdom,
you Ruler of nations!

~Inclusive Language Version

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 7:1-10

Randy Zeese

After having finished this discourse in the hearing of the people, Jesus entered Capernaum. A centurion had a favorite attendant who was, at that moment, sick to the point of death. Hearing about Jesus, the centurion sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and save the attendant's life. The elders approached Jesus and petitioned earnestly. "This centurion deserves this favor from you," they said; "he loves our nation and was the one who built our synagogue."

Jesus set out with them. When he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent out friends to convey this message: "Rabbi, don't trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter my house. That's why I didn't presume to come to you myself. Just give the order and my attendant will be cured. I, too, know the meaning of an order, having soldiers under my command. I give orders, and they obey."

On hearing this Jesus was amazed, and turned to the crowd that was following and said, "I tell you, I've never found this much faith among the Israelites."

When the messengers returned to the house, they found the attendant in perfect health.

~Inclusive Language Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

"People Who Need Help"

Rev. Michael Shiefelbein

Hymn of Response

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.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Carol Moore

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

The musical notation is written on two staves in 3/4 time. The melody is in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "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." The first staff ends with a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff ends with a final double bar line.

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

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

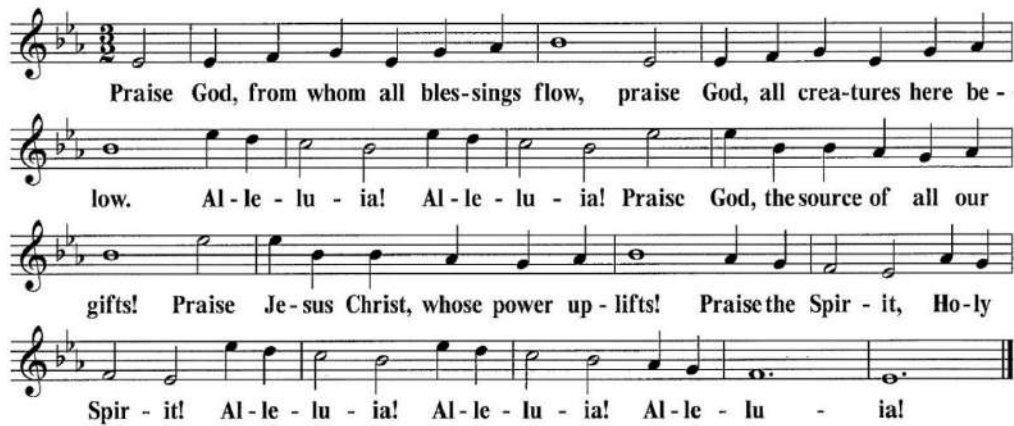
Guardian of our destiny, we come in response to Christ's call to discipleship. We offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving with the prayer that you will deem it worthy of your grace. We offer our deeds of goodness; transform them into acts of benevolence befitting your mercy. We offer our treasure, turn it into the means of new life for all. 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 Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Michael Shiefelbein

Our Creator, who art in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our 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.

* Sending Hymn

18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

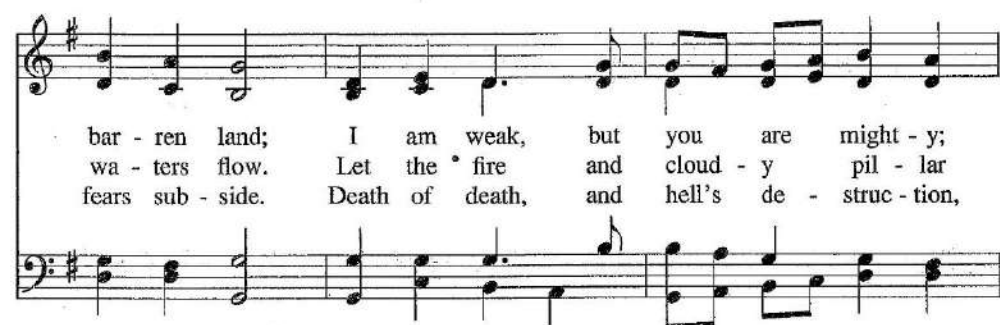
William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.



1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

Benediction

Rev. Michael Shiefelbein

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

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Allegro” from “Suite Gothique”



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. Note further that it was not until the 13th Amendment was adopted in December 1865, that slavery was ended in all parts of the United States. General Lee surrendered April 9, 1865.

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, Gerald Chester** and **Randy Zeese**, for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Carol Moore** for introducing our guest today and a special thank you to **Rev. Michael Shiefelbein** for presenting our commentary and other portions of our service 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**, and **Sheila Dell**. Thank you to **Carol Moore** and her crew who set up our hospitality table.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Randy Zeese** 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 **Ray Allen** in memory of his father.

--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: 52 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0
--- Facebook Live Views: 11

Sunday Total Offerings \$1,570

Online Offerings: \$1.354

Permanence Offerings: \$0

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**, dinojns@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 23	Tuesday June 24	Wednesday June 25	Thursday June 26	Friday June 27	Saturday June 28	Sunday June 29
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.

After June 24th Bloom Book Club is on hiatus for the summer.

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

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.

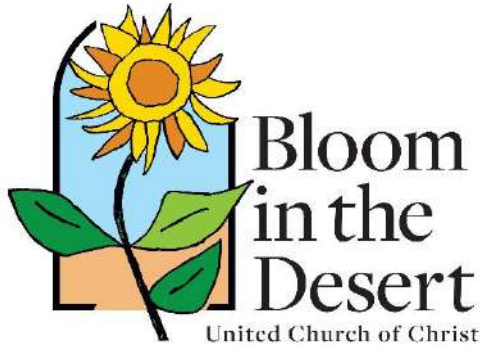
Jesus Loves Me with **Jesus Loves Even Me.** By Bradley and Bliss

Blessed Assurance, by Crosby and Knapp

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, by Welman

Allegro from **Suite Gothique**, by Boelmann

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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