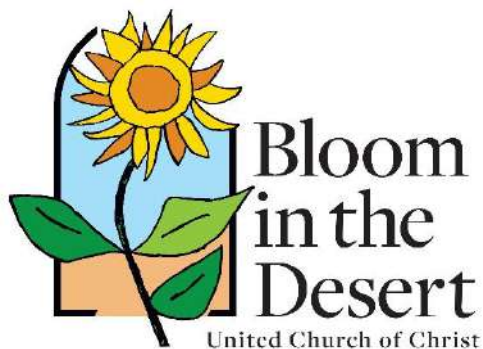




Third Sunday after Pentecost

LGBTQIA+ Pride Sunday

June 29, 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

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

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

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Randy Zeese, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan, piano

“O Mio Babbino Caro”

Call to Worship

Carol Moore

Welcome to worship today! We celebrate the UCC's 68th anniversary and the 56th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York.

Remembering is powerful. Even in times that are difficult to maneuver, it is good to know how far we've come toward better days.

Here we will worship our God, who knowingly welcomes us with love.

We will open our hearts to welcome friends and strangers alike, for we were strangers ourselves and now we've been made friends, with ourselves and others.

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

* Opening Hymn

32

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Music Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

In the spirit of our Bloom congregation's mission statement, "united in our diversity," let us pray together this Pride Sunday prayer

Loving Creator,

We praise You for delighting in beautiful diversity: that we are queerfully and wonderfully made!

Thank You for revealing Yourself to us in all the colors of the rainbow, across all spectrums, in all colors.

We praise You for Your unfailing love that is so much bigger and wider and more inclusive than some of us ever dared to hope or imagine.

We praise You for helping us live into the fullness of exactly who You have created us to be and that You delight in us being authentically who we are.

We come with gratitude for all the ways we have come to know You and for all the ways you are beyond our comprehension.

We thank you for being Mother and Father and Caregiver to us, for defying our limited categories of understanding.

We celebrate the queerness of Spirit that calls us to deeper love, joy, peace, hope, and fuller communion with God and each other.

We praise You and thank You for all the ways Love finds us.

Praise be to God. Amen.

~ Seminarian Jennifer Neyhart, Louisville, Kentucky 2022, written for a Pride service at her church.

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 silent meditation and prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Embraced by God's love, we are free to live and love freely, fully, and wildly, affirmed and accepted as beloved offspring of God's creative brilliance. ~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

II Kings 2:1-12

Jim Nixon

When YHWH was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha: Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So, they departed together for Bethel. The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "now be silent"

Then Elijah spoke, "Stay here, Elisha, YHWH is sending me to Jericho."

And Elisha replied, "As YHWH lives, and you live, I will not leave you."

So, they went to Jericho. The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

Yes, I know," he said, "now be silent."

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So, the two of them walked on. Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha replied, "Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit, he said.

"You ask a difficult thing," Elijah said. "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours, otherwise not."

As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and calvary of Israel!" And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

~Inclusive Language Version

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 9:57-62

Brian Schimpf

As they were making their way along, they met a fellow traveler who said to Jesus, "I'll follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the Chosen One has nowhere to rest.

To another traveler Jesus said, "Follow me."

The traveler replied, "Let me bury my father first."

Jesus said in return, "Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere."

Yet another traveler approached Jesus this way: "I'll be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home."

Jesus answered, "Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God."

~Inclusive Language Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

"A Double Portion"

Rev. Michael Schiefelbein

Hymn of Response (Sing twice)

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.
Daniel Iverson, 1926

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Randy Zeese

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

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Extract from 'Sonata Pathetique'"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

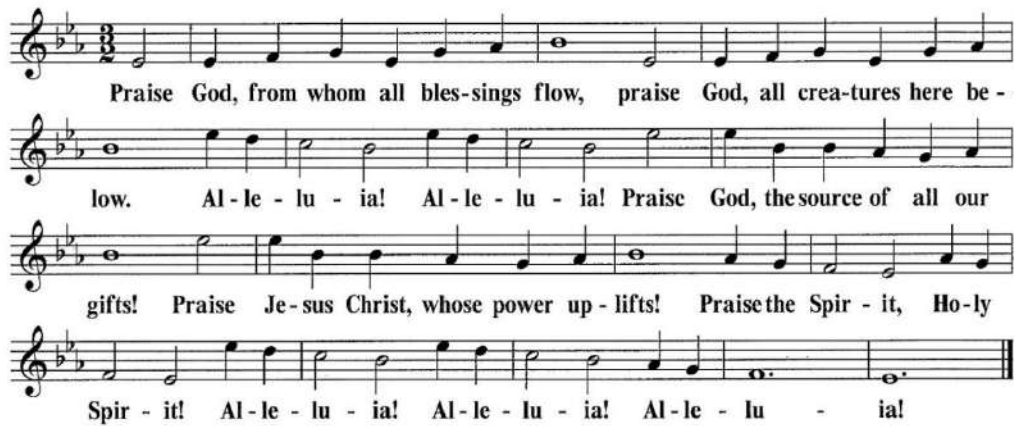
O God, you cast your mantle upon us and mark us for ministry in Christ's name. We come before you with our tithes and offerings. We shall put on the cloak of righteousness as a sign to the nations of how you redeem all people. We shall carry the cross of salvation to the far corners of the globe. Accept these gifts as tokens of our commitment and bless our endeavors as we serve you in Christ's name. 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 Schiefelbein

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

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Benediction

Rev. Michael Schiefelbein

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, piano

"As You Wish"



Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Carol Moore, Jim Nixon** and **Brian Schimpf**, for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Randy Zeese** for serving as worship leader and a special thank you to **Rev. Michael Schiefelbein** 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, **Marilyn Hannah** 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 Stimson** and **Bob Patnode**.

--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: 1
--- Facebook Live Views: 15

Sunday Total Offerings: \$2,003

Online Offerings: \$142

Permanence Offerings: \$100 Cumulative: \$376,420

Juneteenth Concert: \$700

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: is on hiatus for the summer.

-BibleBites is on hiatus.

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 30	Tuesday July 1	Wednesday July 2	Thursday July 3	Friday July 4	Saturday July 5	Sunday July 6
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	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 4th of July		10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

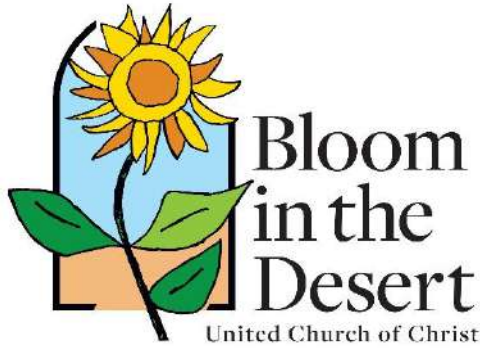
God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.

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

Bloom Book Club 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.
O Mio Babbino Caro. By Puccini
Estract from “Sonata Pathitique”, by Beethoven
As You Wish, by Yiruma
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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