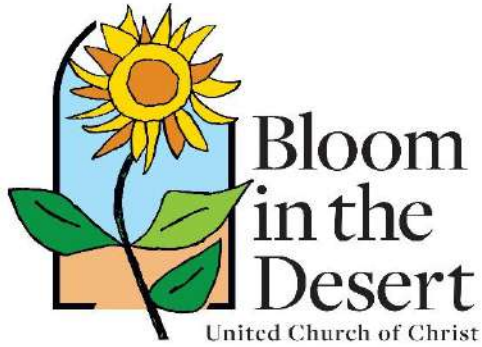




11th Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 2025

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

“La Pastorale” “Matters of the Heart” “It Is Well With My Soul” “Sacred Road”

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

Rev. James Harris

Music for Centering

Mike Welden, piano

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Call to Worship

Lynda Toland

Spirit of wisdom,
open our minds to your truth.

Spirit of love,
open our hearts to your grace.

Spirit of unity,
open our worship to the mystery of your grace.
Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Ping-an, Paz, Peace, Amen.

* Opening Hymn

407

How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
*Early United States melody
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES*

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome the spiritual embrace of God that comes with openness and reconciliation:

Dear God, we come humbly before You to beseech Your help and Your blessing. If ever we needed You, O Eternal One, that time is now. Our world is struggling mightily to overcome so much: these awful diseases that afflict us and have taken so many from among us; the ignorance and vitriol of some who seemingly care nothing for their neighbor; the narcissism and callousness of far too many who lead us; the strife and the hatred which separate so many of us, Your children, from one another; the pain which pervades the souls of so many; and so much more.

Bless those whose compassion and love seek to help those in pain, who use their unique gifts to pursue healing and justice. Continue to strengthen them in their resolve not to let the forces of evil triumph. Grant them a portion of Your light, that holy light that you have saved for the righteous, that they may illumine the darkness that threatens to encompass us all and bring Your Presence into all of our lives. May we all feel that light that we not despair. Draw us near that we may witness the healing of our world soon, and in our own day. Amen.

~Rabbi Rick Shapiro, July 2020, with permission

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, wonderful counselor, sovereign of peace, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Christ brings our peace, the Spirit nourishes our strength, and we are people reconciled as one with God and with each other.

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

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:9-14

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the finger-pointing, the wicked speech;
if you open your heart to the hungry,
and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
your light will shine in the darkness,
and your gloom will be like the noon.

The Lord will guide you continually
and provide for you, even in parched places.
He will rescue your bones.

You will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water that won't run dry.

They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;
the foundations of generations past you will restore.

You will be called Mender of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Livable Streets.

If you stop trampling the Sabbath,
stop doing whatever you want on my holy day,
and consider the Sabbath a delight,
sacred to the Lord, honored,
and honor it instead of doing things your way,
seeking what you want and doing business as usual,
then you will take delight in the Lord.

I will let you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will sustain you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken.

~Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

*** Epistle Reading**

Hebrews 12:18-29

Ray Stimson

You haven't drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn't be one more word. They couldn't stand the command, *If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned*. The sight was so frightening that Moses said, "I'm terrified and shaking!"

But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, to the assembly of God's firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood.

See to it that you don't resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn't escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: *Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also*. The words "still once more" reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn't shaken will remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken, let's continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, because our God really is a consuming fire.

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

"With Gratitude, Let's Serve"

Rev. James Harris

Hymn of Response

593

Here I Am, Lord

Unison



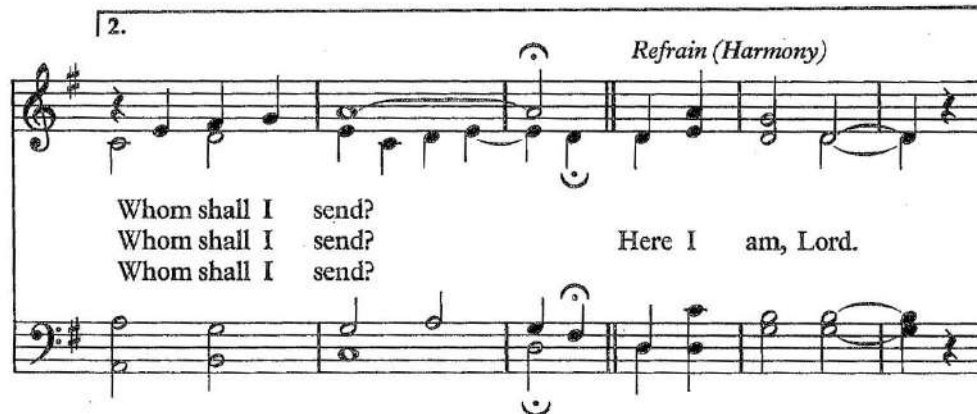
1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a- lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will speak my word to them.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.



2.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8)
MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 D with Refrain

© 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rev. James Harris

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 a key with one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

"Where Is Love?"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Lynda Toland

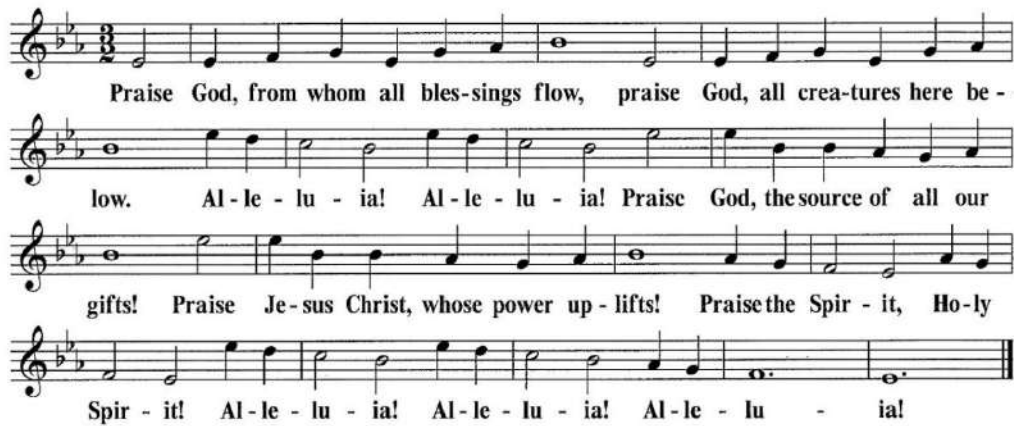
With praise and adoration we enter your temple. Thanksgiving spills from our lips as we approach your majesty. You are God who creates in splendor; holy and blessed is your glorious name. With your Spirit to guide us we shall strive to enter the narrow door, following Christ's teachings and the call to obey. Receive now these offerings as signs of our commitment, of our unceasing gratitude for the gifts you bestow. 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. James Harris

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

503

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

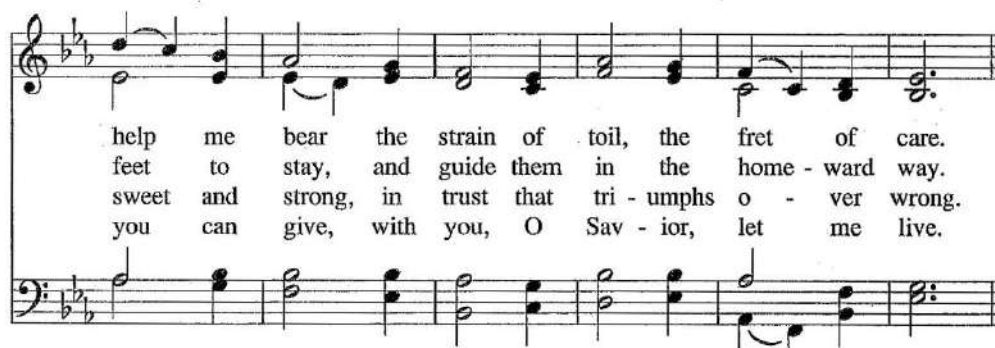
Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.



1 O Sav - ior, let me walk with you in earth - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.
 H. Percy Smith, 1874

Benediction

Rev. James Harris

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

"On Our Way Home"

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Lynda Toland**, **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer** and **Ray Stimson** for serving as readers for today's service.

--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, **Charlie Phelps-Ramos** and **Mike Kreiser**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** and **Anthony Mayers** 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 **Carol Moore** in memory of Leon Moore on their 59th anniversary.

--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: 45 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 15

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$2,931 Online Offering \$1,765

Permanence Fund: \$297 Cumulative: \$381,300

Memorial Fund \$100 Cumulative: \$750

The Common English Bible and the **Revised Common Lectionary** are the usual references for Sunday morning scripture readings.

Liturgy and prayers are original, sourced and often adapted.

La Pastorale, Op. 100 No. 3, by Friedrich Burgmüller

Matters of the Heart, by Douglas Trowbridge, ©1985 by Birdwing Music

It Is Well with My Soul, by Philip Bliss, arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co, Inc

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

Fairest Lord Jesus, arr. by Jerry Ray, © 1992 by Alfred Publishing Co, Inc

Where is Love?, by Lionel Bart, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©1960 and 2000 by lakeview Music Co, Ltd.

On Our Way Home, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--Open Council Meetings -- The next hybrid meeting will be September 10 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**, dinoinsps@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: on summer hiatus

-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 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.

--Laundry Love – monthly free laundry service for low income and unhoused residents third Wednesday of the month

--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.

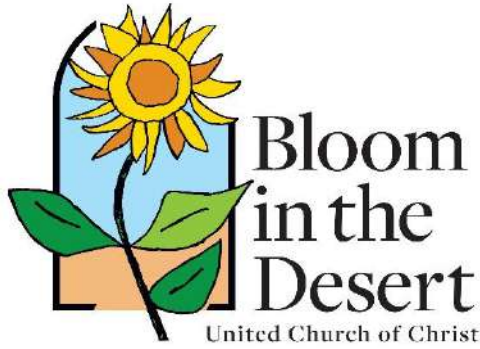
Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Aug 25	Tuesday Aug 26	Wednesday Aug 27	Thursday Aug 28	Friday Aug 29	Saturday Aug 30	Sunday Aug 2431
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:45am – 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		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 Summer Hiatus

-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

Rev. James Harris — 404-587-9816 — james@bloominthedesert.org

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