



Just Peace Sunday

Pentecost 14

September 14, 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Hymns, part 23” arr. by Wayne Yankie

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Bill Phelps-Ramos

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.

Call to Worship

Bill Phelps-Ramos

Peace . . .” our Christ announced.

But peace is as much a task as a gift.

When we become calm as earth, fluid as water, and blazing as fire; we will rise to the task of peacemaking, and the air will stir with God’s spirit of help.

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

*** Opening Hymn**

Joel Brown, soloist, Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Jesus Christ is the Way”

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Bill Phelps-Ramos

On this Just Peace Sunday, we pray together for Peace:

God in all goodness, our eternal safe space, your will is for the lightness of peace to shine everywhere. Make strong all who hope and strive for peace with justice. We pray that humankind will make peace and justice the will of the nations. Inspire this Body of Christ to take actions big and small to make peace. Inspire the hearts and minds of people to seek: Peace not war, common good over competitive domination, justice instead of greatness. Enable us to share your peace that passes understanding with all on Earth near and far so love and harmony may inhabit every life. We want all in the world to know happiness and live in dignity as God's creation. When that happens, people will rejoice in your pleasure. United in diversity, we see the beauty and value of all lives in the peaceable realm.

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.)

Eternal Source of love and creativity, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

~John 14:27 RSV

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

Psalms 51:1-10

Phyllis Ramsey

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

Wash me completely clean of my guilt;
purify me from my sin!

Because I know my wrongdoings,
my sin is always right in front of me.

I've sinned against you—you alone.
I've committed evil in your sight.

That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,
completely correct when you issue your judgment.

Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,
from the moment my mother conceived me.

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;
wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and celebration again;
let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

Hide your face from my sins;
wipe away all my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God;
put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!.

~Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Chorus

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

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

Chorus 1: *Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;*

Chorus 2: *Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.*

Chorus 3: *Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

Chorus 4: *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

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 14:7-14

Carol Moore

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

“Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won’t light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Daniel Iverson, 1926

Commentary

“Lost and Found”

Pastor James Harris

Hymn of Response

“For All the World” Joel Brown, soloist, Dr. Denis Moreen

Ministry of Generosity — Expressing God’s Love and Empowering Good Works

Bill Phelps-Ramos

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

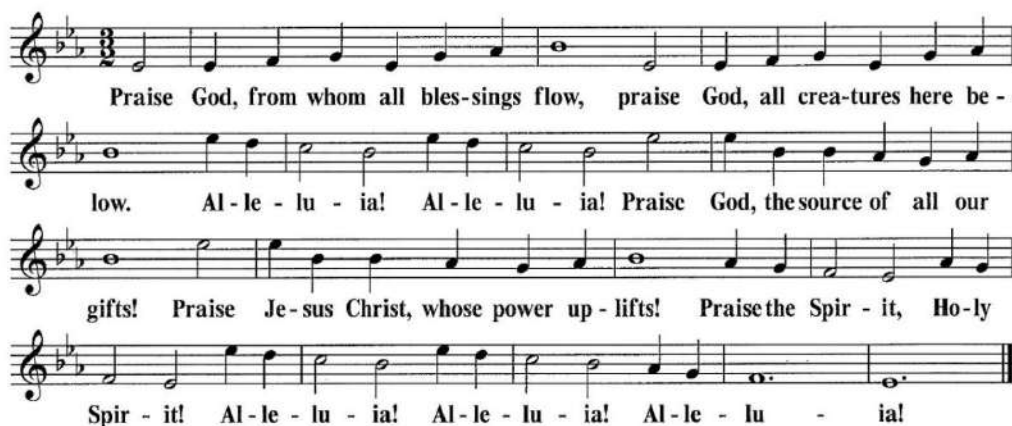
Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” by Peter Scholtes

Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Pastor 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

$\text{♩} = 69$

The musical notation is for a song in 3/4 time with a tempo of 69 beats per minute. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The lyrics 'In our God I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in our God I will re-joice. Look to God, do not be a-' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, C5, Bb4, and A4. The lyrics 'fraid, lift up your voice - es, our God is near, lift up your voice - es our God is near.' are written below the second staff. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked with a '3' above it at the end of the second staff.

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

The Prayer of Jesus

Pastor James Harris

Creator God, 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.

*** Passing of the Peace**

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace. Amen.

*** Sending Hymn**

Verses 1, 2, and 4.

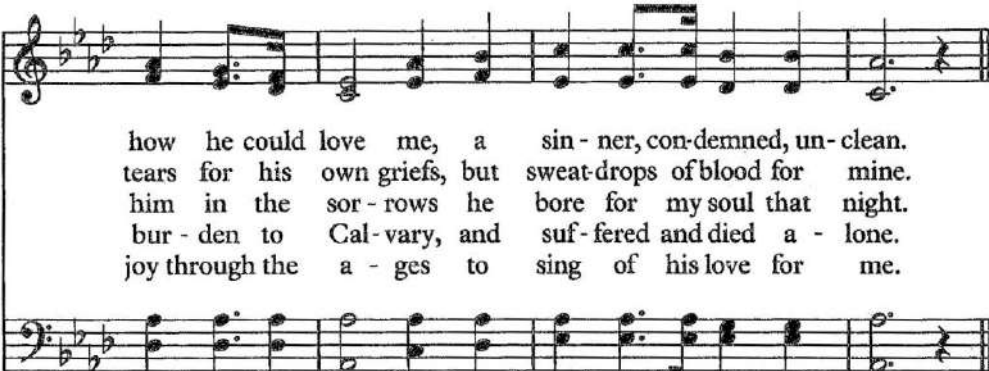
371 I Stand Amazed in the Presence

The musical notation is for a hymn in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and the melody. The lyrics are written below the first staff. The second staff has a bass clef and the bass line. The lyrics are written below the second staff.

1. I stand a - mazed in the pres - ence of
2. For me it was in the gar - den he
3. In pit - y an - gels be - held him, and
4. He took my sins and my sor - rows, he
5. When with the ran - somed in glo - ry his



Je - sus the Naz - a - rene, and won - der
 prayed: "Not my will, but thine." He had no
 came from the world of light to com - fort
 made them his ver - y own; he bore the
 face I at last shall see, 'twill be my

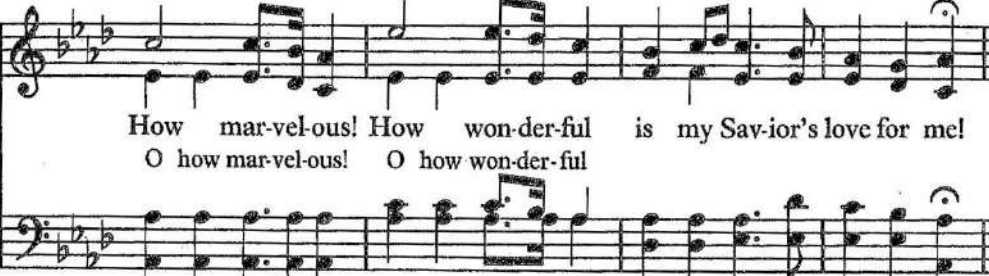


how he could love me, a sin - ner, con-demned, un-clean.
 tears for his own griefs, but sweat-drops of blood for mine.
 him in the sor - rows he bore for my soul that night.
 bur - den to Cal-vary, and suf - fered and died a - lone.
 joy through the a - ges to sing of his love for me.

Refrain



How mar-vel-ous! How won-der-ful! And my song shall ev - er be:
 O how mar-vel-ous! O how won-der-ful!



How mar-vel-ous! How won-der-ful is my Sav-ior's love for me!
 O how mar-vel-ous! O how won-der-ful

As the light of Christ passes by, please turn and face the back of the church.

Benediction

Pastor James Harris

Postlude "Somewhere There's a Place for Us" by Leonard Bernstein Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Dr. Denis Moreen**, piano, and **Joel Brown**, soloist for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Bill Phelps-Ramos**, **Phyllis Ramsey** and **Carol Moore** 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, **Bob Patnode** and **Ray Stimson**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

--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: 50 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 11

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$2,036

Permanence Fund: 0 Cumulative: \$381,300

Laundry Love: \$8

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.

The Piano Treasury of Hymns, arr. by Wayne Yankie, ©2006 Shawnee Press

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love, by Peter Scholtes, ©1966 by F.E.L. Publications

Somewhere There's a Place for Us, by Leonard Bernstein, ©1957 G. Schirmer, Inc.

Jesus Christ is the Way, by Walter Hawkins, ©1977 Bud John Music, Inc.

For All the World, by Greg Nelson and Bob Farrell, ©1990 Word Music.

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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: resumes September 23 with a new book.

-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 5:30-9:30 pm at Sunrise and Vista Chino.

--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.**

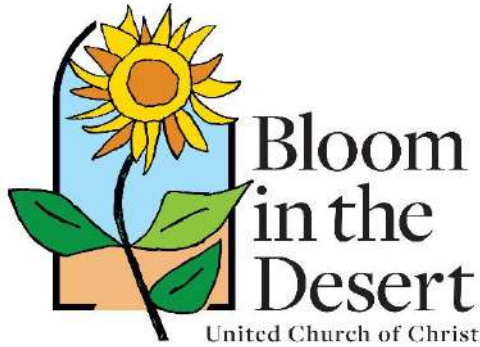
Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Sept 15	Tuesday Sept 16	Wednesday Sept 17	Thursday Sept 18	Friday Sept 19	Saturday Sept 20	Sunday Sept 21
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 5:30-9:30pm Laundry Love	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 resumes September 23 with a new book.

-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

Pastor 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