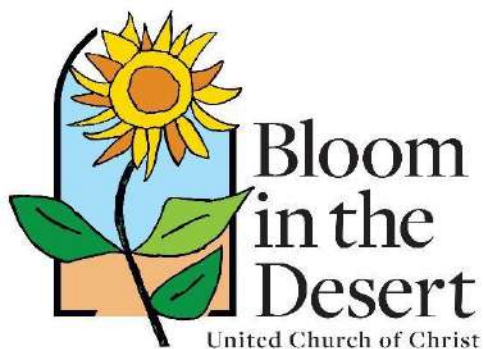




19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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

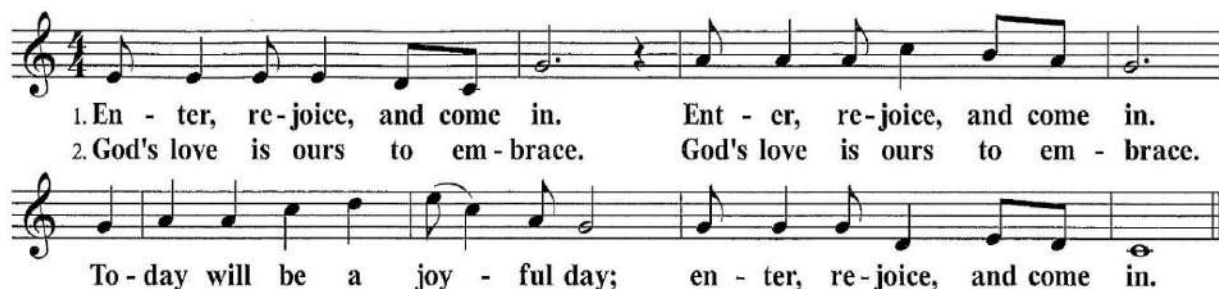
“I Love to Tell the Story”

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

10:00am Welcome and News of the Congregation

Linda Lang

Gathering Song



Call to Worship

Linda Lang

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit to join with me in our Call to Worship and invitational prayer.

Holy One, dwell within us.

Whisper in our ears.

Glimmer in our vision.

Write upon our hearts.

We wait

with open ears, open eyes, open hearts.

Please join me in prayer:

God of love and justice, we gather together to worship you, to offer our thanks and praise and to proclaim your goodness and mercy. Meet us here. Breathe your Word into our souls; engrave your covenant of love upon our hearts. Teach us faithfulness and compassion so that our lives may reflect your love and justice to the world. Amen.

Our Silent Prayers

The 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.

I would like to invite you to a few centering, deep breaths in the hope that they will allow you to make the connection, to relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.

Allow 45 seconds

From time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices. From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love.

May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized by your glimmers even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Amen.

Now let us sing our opening hymn, "Be Thou My Vision."

* Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

451

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE
10 10.9 10

Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:27-34

JR Rasch

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will plant seeds in Israel and Judah, and both people and animals will spring up. Just as I watched over them to dig up and pull down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and plant, declares the Lord. In those days, people will no longer say:

Sour grapes eaten by parents
leave a bitter taste in the mouths of their children.
Because everyone will die for their own sins:
whoever eats sour grapes
will have a bitter taste in their own mouths.

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

~ Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Chorus

334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here



WORDS: Doris Akers, 1962
MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
Irr. with Refrain

© 1962 Manna Music, Inc.

New Testament Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Bill Phelps-Ramos

But you must continue with the things you have learned and found convincing. You know who taught you. Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

I'm giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom. Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered. They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths. But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances. Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully.

~Common English Bible

Here ends the reading of the New Testament.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Chorus

334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

The first line of the chorus is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I".

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

The second line of the chorus continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are".

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

The third line of the chorus continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I".

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

The fourth line of the chorus continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord."

Refrain
Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

The refrain is marked with a bracket and the word "Refrain". It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here".



Commentary

"Planting Seeds"

Pastor James Harris

Congregation Meeting
Today
in the Hospitality Room and on Zoom
after the service.

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

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



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

Carol Moore

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 Music “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

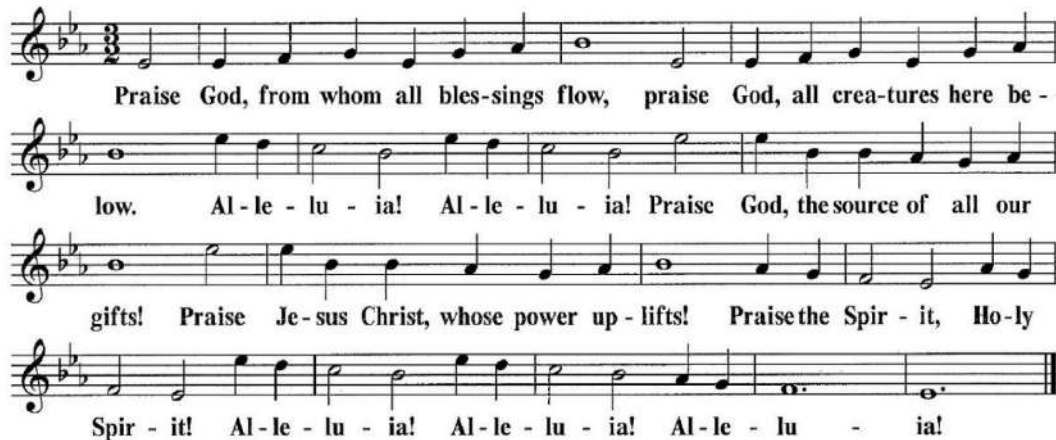
Rev. Doug Holder, piano

Presentation of Offerings

Please rise, as you are able, in celebration, as we sing the Doxology.

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Pastor James Harris

Concerns:

Listening God,

Hear our prayers as we come before you. Hear the ones who are crying with pain in their heart. Hear the ones who are weeping with grief long into the night. Hear the ones who are sobbing in their loneliness.

Loving God, Heal their pain. Restore their lives. Mend their broken hearts.

Joys and Thanksgiving:

Leading God,

Lead us through the dark valleys. Lead us through troublesome times.

Lead us to our home with you. Teach us to listen to your voice,

That we may hear the cry of the needy and respond.

Teach us to love that

We may offer care that brings others to you for healing.

Teach us to lead,

With your vision so that we do not lead others blindly through life.

Through your son who taught us to pray:

Receive our Thanks and Praise, Alleluia, Amen.

Now let us together say the prayer that Christ taught us.

Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of Jesus

Pastor James Harris

Great Spirit, 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

Passing of the Peace

Now as people who are loved deeply and accepted fully, let us offer one another the Peace of Christ.

Now, I invite you to stand as you are able as we sing our final hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

* Sending Hymn

526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there
 3. Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered

sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to car - ry
 trou - ble an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged;
 with a load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge;

ev - ery - thing to God in prayer! O what peace we of - ten
 take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so
 take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends de - spise, for -

for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear, all be -
 faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share? Je - sus
 sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his

cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
 knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven, ca. 1855
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

CONVERSE
 87.87 D

Benediction

Pastor James Harris

Postlude

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Linda Lang, JR Rasch, Bill Phelps-Ramos** 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, **Randy Zeese and Pamela Robinson**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** and **Michael Broderick** 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 **Carl** and **Linda Toland** in celebration of Bloom’s Fall Congregation Meeting.

--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: 44 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 14

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$1,437 On-line Giving: \$2,453

Permanence Fund: \$350 Cumulative: \$392,632

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

I Love to Tell the Story, by William Tischer

I Sing the Mighty Power of God, arr. by Barbara Boertje

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing, The Ash Grove, Welsh Folk Tune

Liturgy and prayers are original, sourced and often adapted.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--Open Council Meetings -- The next hybrid meeting will be November 12 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 today 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: Tuesdays at 6pm on Zoom.

Discussing: "Complaint Free World: (Revised and Updated) How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted" 2024 by [Will Bowen](#)

For more information, please contact our Education Coordinator, Gary Lange at 760-773-1014 or garylange13@gmail.com

-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.

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 – Third Wednesday of each month at Wash Time at Sunrise and Vista Chino 5:30 to 9:30pm

**You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection or
leave it with the ushers for recycling.**

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday October 20	Tuesday October 21	Wednesday October 22	Thursday October 23	Friday October 24	Saturday Oct 25	Sunday October 26
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 6:00pm Bloom Book Group meets 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
Tuesdays at 6:00 pm PST on Zoom.

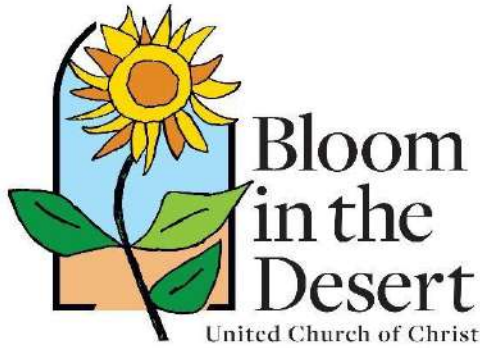
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Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

-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