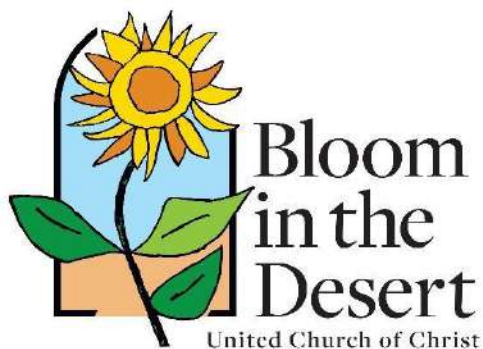




20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 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

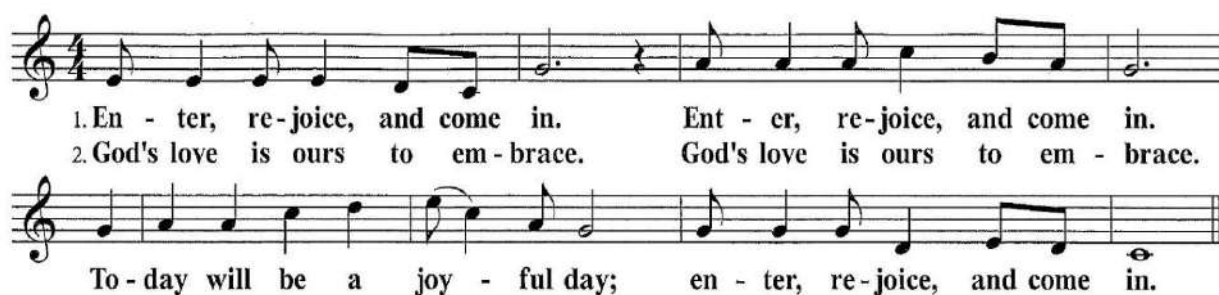
Mike Welden, piano

“Sonata No. 20 in G Major, 2nd mvt” “Ben” “Be Thou My Vision”

10:00am Welcome and News of the Congregation

Gary Lange

Gathering Song



Call to Worship

Gary Lange

God moves with us throughout this earth and nurtures the soil,

Our neighbors are awed by God's works.

God's river flows with water and the fields are blessed by the Spirit.

Our neighbors are awed by God's gifts.

God's wilderness fields overflow with joy.

Our neighbors are awed by God's grace.

Anthem

“Vouchsafe, O Lord” Handel

David Bruns, baritone

Mike Welden, piano

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 invite you to take 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.

God fully shares mercy and grace no matter where we sit in our churches or what our power is in this world.

May we know your radical love when we rarely experience it.

May your light and kindness seep from our souls so that our neighbors will understand your grace even when the harsh winds surround them.

No matter how chaotic or serene our lives may be, may we all know your steadfast love. Amen.

Now let us sing our opening hymn, "I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me."

*** Opening Hymn**

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

474

African-American spiritual

1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,



Just as the spirituals were adapted to be sung in a folk-song style during the 1960s music-festivals and civil rights marches, so have they been adapted in a gospel style. This is a spiritual that especially lends itself to gospel rendering.

Tune: I'M SO GLAD Irr.
African-American spiritual

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 84:1-7

Robert Van Dyke

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord of heavenly forces!
My very being longs, even yearns,
for the Lord's courtyards.
My heart and my body
will rejoice out loud to the living God!

Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there;
the swallow has found herself a nest
where she can lay her young beside your altars,
Lord of heavenly forces, my king, my God!
Those who live in your house are truly happy;
they praise you constantly.

Selah

Those who put their strength in you are truly happy;
pilgrimage is in their hearts.
As they pass through the Baca Valley,
they make it a spring of water.
Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings.
They go from strength to strength,
until they see the supreme God in Zion.

~ 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

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 concludes the main body of the chorus. 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 the word "Refrain" above the first staff. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Carol Moore

Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust: “Two people went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself with these words, ‘God, I thank you that I’m not like everyone else—crooks, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I receive.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn’t even lift his eyes to look toward heaven. Rather, he struck his chest and said, ‘God, show mercy to me, a sinner.’ I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know

that we have been re-vived when we shall leave this place.

Commentary

“Dirty Work”

Rev. Rachel Pryor
Conference Minister
Southern California Nevada Conference

Hymn of Response

3003

How Great Is Our God



1. The splen-dor of the King, — — clothed in maj - es - ty; — —
2. Age to age he stands, — and time is in his hands; —



— let all the earth re-joice, — let all the earth re-joice. —
— Be-gin-ning and the End, — Be-gin-ning and the End. —



— He wraps — him - self in light, — and
— The God - head, Three - in - one, —



dark - ness tries to hide; — it trem-bles at his voice, —
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, — the Li - on and the Lamb, —



— it trem-bles at his voice. — How great —
— the Li - on and the Lamb. —



— is our God! — Sing with me, "How great is our God!" —



— And all will see how — great, how great — is our God! —

WORDS: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash
MUSIC: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD
Irr. with Refrain

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admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com



Stewardship Moment

Cindy Schimpf

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 Music

“Sure, On This Shining Night” Barber

David Bruns, baritone
Mike Welden, piano

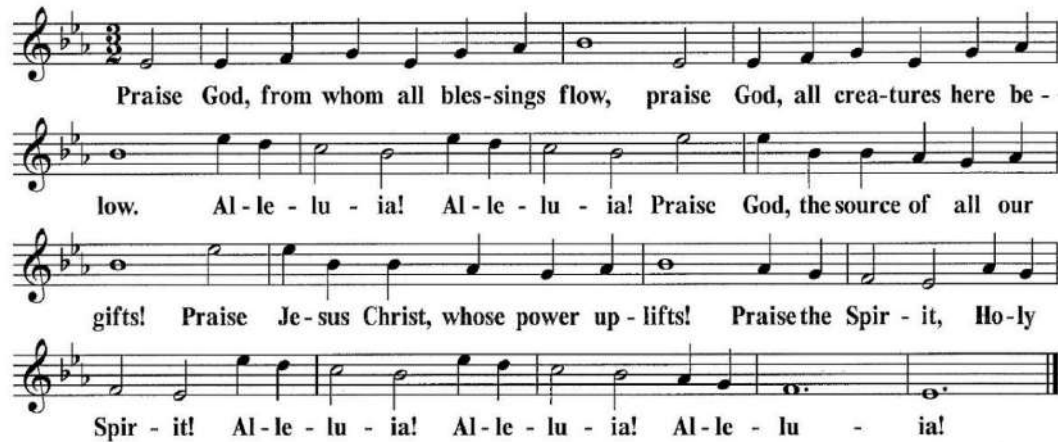
Presentation of Offerings

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:

The Prayer of Jesus

Pastor James Harris

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.

~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: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

* Sending Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing,
 lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean -
 lean-ing on

ing, lean - ing,
 Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27)
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

SHOWALTER
 10 9.10 9 with Refrain

Benediction

Rev. Rachel Pryor

Postlude

“The Rainbow Connection”

Mike Welden, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Gary Lange**, **Robert Van Dyke**, **Carol Moore** and **Cindy Schimpf** 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, **Mike Kreiser** and **Charlie Phelps-Ramos**, 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 **Linda** and **Ron Lang**.

--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: 54 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 14

Sunday Offerings

Pledges \$3,220 Plate Loose: \$125

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$392,632

Memorials \$100

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

Sonata No. 20 in G Major, 2nd mvt., by Ludwig van Beethoven, public domain

Ben, by Eon Black and Walter Scharf, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©1971, 1972, 2006 by Jobiete Music Co., Inc.

Be Thou My Vision, arr. by Tom Howard, ©1986 by Marantha! Music

The Rainbow Connection, by Paul Williams and Kenneth Asher, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©1979 and 2000 by Jim Henson Productions, Inc.

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 February 16 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**, dinoins@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

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 27	Tuesday October 28	Wednesday October 29	Thursday October 30	Friday October 31	Saturday Nov 1	Sunday Nov 2
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.

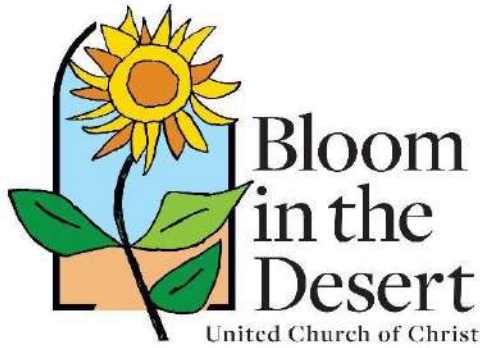
Bloom Book Club
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Zoom Meeting

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



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