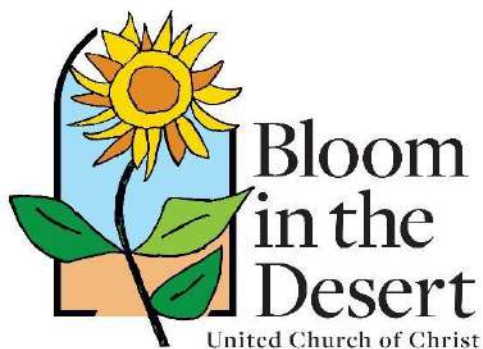




23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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

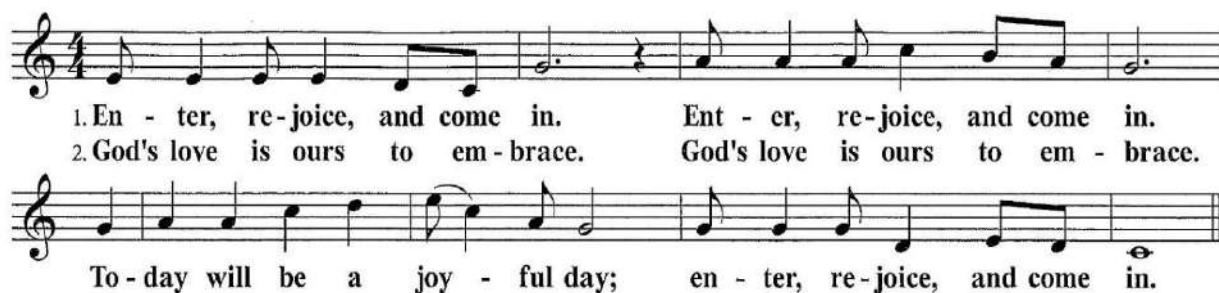
Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” by J.S. Bach

10:00am Welcome and News of the Congregation

Bill Phelps-Ramos

Gathering Song



Call to Worship

Bill Phelps-Ramos

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.
young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched, lift the new, new songs of faith.

Opening Prayer

Please join me in prayer:

Creating and Loving God,

You have called us from the chaos of our weeks into the harmony of Your presence. As the earth sings and the heavens rejoice, we, too, lift our voices, some clear, some cracked, all full of praise. You shaped us for joy, for community, for love that binds us together in You. In this hour, tune our hearts to Your Spirit's rhythm. Let every note of our worship rather spoken, sung, or silent—resound with gratitude and grace. Make this gathering a symphony of faith, so that when we leave this place, your melody of love will continue through our lives. In Christ, the Song of Life, we pray. 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 invite you to take a few deep, centering breaths in the hope that they will allow you to make the connection, to relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.

Allow 45 seconds

Now, let us lift our voices to sing, "He Has Made Me Glad."

* Opening Hymn

He Has Made Me Glad

2270



I will en-ter his gates with thanks-giv-ing in my heart, I will



en - ter his courts with praise. I will



say, "This is the day that the Lord has made." I

Refrain



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.

WORDS: Leona Von Brethorst (Ps. 100:2, 4; 118:24)

MUSIC: Leona Von Brethorst

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LEONA
Irregular with Refrain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

JR Rasch

Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth:

past events won't be remembered;
they won't come to mind.

Be glad and rejoice forever

in what I'm creating,
because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy
and her people as a source of gladness.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people.

No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again.

No more will babies live only a few days,
or the old fail to live out their days.

The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person,
and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed.

They will build houses and live in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They won't build for others to live in,
nor plant for others to eat.

Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people;
my chosen will make full use of their handiwork.

They won't labor in vain,
nor bear children to a world of horrors,
because they will be people blessed by the Lord,
they along with their descendants.

Before they call, I will answer;
while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Wolf and lamb will graze together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but the snake—its food will be dust.

They won't hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

~ Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Chorus

Something Beautiful

394

Some - thing beau - ti - ful, some - thing good;

The first line of the chorus is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Some - thing beau - ti - ful, some - thing good;"

all my con - fu - sion he un - der - stood;

The second line of the chorus continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "all my con - fu - sion he un - der - stood;"

all I had to of - fer him was bro - ken - ness and

The third line of the chorus continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "all I had to of - fer him was bro - ken - ness and"

strife, but he made some-thing beau-ti-ful of my life.

The fourth line of the chorus concludes the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "strife, but he made some-thing beau-ti-ful of my life."

WORDS: Gloria Gaither, 1971
MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL
Irr.

© 1971 William J. Gaither

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

Megan Cassette

Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said, “As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?”

Jesus said, “Watch out that you aren’t deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I’m the one!’ and ‘It’s time!’ Don’t follow them. When you hear of wars and rebellions, don’t be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won’t happen immediately.”

Then Jesus said to them, “Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other. There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. I’ll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict. You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you. Everyone will hate you because of my name. Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Chorus

Something Beautiful

394

Some - thing beau - ti - ful, some - thing good;

all my con - fu - sion he un - der - stood;

all I had to of - fer him was bro - ken - ness and

strife, but he made some-thing beau-ti - ful of my life.

WORDS: Gloria Gaither, 1971
MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

© 1971 William J. Gaither

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL
Irr.

Commentary

“Out With the Old, In With the New”

Pastor James

Hymn of Response

3157

Come, Let Us Dream

1. Come, let us dream God's dream a - gain. Come, one and
 2. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see, the doors swing
 3. When ha - tred ends and war shall cease, so all may
 4. But know the cost of claim - ing sight of God's new
 5. Proph - ets are scorned in their own lands and mar - tyr's

all, let us as - cend the moun - tain - top where those of
 wide, all pri - soners free, the low - ly raised, the proud brought
 dwell in deep - est peace, then be as - sured the time is
 day, of wrongs made right, for some have paid the high - est
 slain by righ - teous hands; though dream - ers die, the dream will

old saw God's new day on earth un - fold.
 low. This is God's dream: let jus - tice flow.
 near when per - fect love casts out all fear.
 price, their lives for us, a sac - ri - fice.
 live, for we have yet our lives to give.

Congregation: Unison

WORDS: John Middleton
 MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. by Dean McIntyre

O WALT WALT
 LM

Words © 2004 John Middleton; harm. © 2005 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church

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

Larry Metcalf

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

“Prayer” by John Leavitt

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

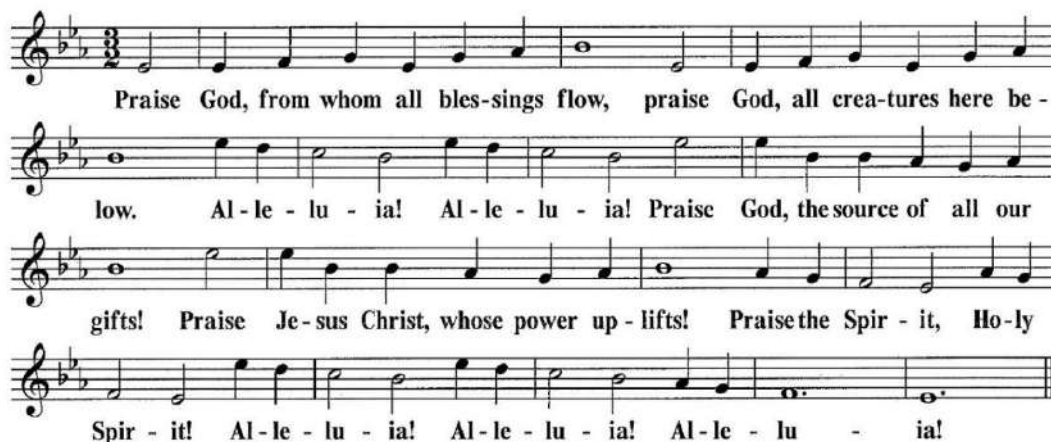
Presentation of Offerings

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

Now let us offer up to God and each other our prayer concerns:

God of steadfast love, in a world shaken by conflict and change, we lift before You those who are weary and afraid. When all seems uncertain, remind us that Your promise endures. Be with those whose faith is tested, whose hope is fragile, whose bodies or spirits ache for healing and peace.

God of Love, hear our prayers

Give us courage to bear witness to Your grace, patience to endure what we cannot yet understand, and trust that not one hair of our heads escapes Your care. Hold us in Your mercy, O God, until Your peace and justice prevail.

God of Grace, hear our prayers through Christ our strength and redeemer. Amen.

Now let us offer up our joys and thanksgivings.

Gracious and steadfast God, we give you thanks that even when the world feels uncertain, your love remains our firm foundation. When the stones of our certainties crumble, you build in us a deeper faith, one that is not bound to walls or monuments, but alive in hearts that trust in you.

Loving God, receive our thanks.

We thank you for the beauty that endures for communities that hold one another through hardship, for voices that speak truth amid fear, for the quiet courage of those who persevere in hope. You remind us, O God, that your Spirit is present not only in peace, but also in the endurance that leads to redemption.

Peaceful God, receive our thanks.

During turmoil, we rejoice for your promise that not a hair from our heads is forgotten, for your assurance that by our endurance, we find life. May our gratitude grow deeper than our fear, our joy shine brighter than our worry, and our hearts remain steadfast in your saving love. Through Christ, who walks with us through every trial and joy, we now pray the prayer he taught us saying,

God of peace, of grace, of love, 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 sending hymn: "Some Glad Morning."

* Sending Hymn

Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)

595

Albert E. Brumley, 1932

Ps. 55:6

1 Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a-way;
 2 When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way, fly a-way;
 3 Just a few more wea-ry days and then,

to a home on God's ce - les - tial shore, I'll fly a-way.
 Like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, fly a-way, fly a-way.
 To a land where joys shall nev - er end,

Refrain

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way;
 fly a-way, fly a-way, in the morn-ing;

When I die, hal-le - lu - jah, by and by, I'll fly a-way.
 fly a-way, fly a-way.

This is a favorite song of the golden age of gospel music, in which heaven is vividly described and highly desired. Albert E. Brumley's musical style grew out of his Ozark mountain roots. He wrote this song while working in a cotton field.

Tune: I'LL FLY AWAY 9.4.9.4. with refrain
 Albert E. Brumley, 1932

Benediction

Pastor James

Postlude

“Psalm XIX” by Benedetto Marcello

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, **Bill Phelps-Ramos, JR Rasch, Megan Cassette, and Larry Metcalf** 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, **Pamela** and **Mike 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**, are offered by Robert Van Dyke and Gary Lange remembering all of the Bloomers who have left us.

--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: 27 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 5 Pride Parade Participants: 12

Sunday Offerings

Pledges \$900 Plate Loose: \$135 On-Line: \$1946

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

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, by J.S. Bach

Prayer, by John Leavitt

Psalm XIX, by Benedetto Marcello

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 December 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 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: "A 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 Laundromat 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 Nov.17	Tuesday Nov 18	Wednesday Nov 19	Thursday Nov 20	Friday Nov 21	Saturday Nov 22	Sunday Nov 23
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.

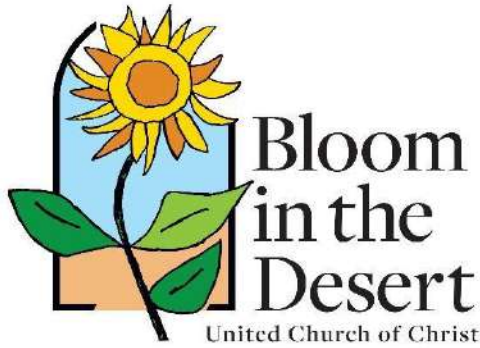
Bloom Book Club
Tuesdays at 6:00 pm PST on Zoom.

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

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