

Order of Worship  
Sunday, January 18, 2026  
Second Sunday after Epiphany

**9:50: Pre-Service Music/Prelude:** Mike Welden  
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” “Finlandia”

**10:00 am: Welcome and News of the Congregation** Paul Gibb

**Gathering Song:** “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” UMH404

**404      Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

*Refrain*

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov-ing in my heart,  
I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the  
Spir - it mov-ing in my heart, I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, my Lord spoke, out his  
2. Jor - dan riv - er runs right cold, chills the

*Fine*

mouth came fire and smoke. All a - round me looks so  
bod - y, not the soul. Ain't but one train on this

D.C.

shine, ask my Lord if all was mine.  
track, runs to heav - en and right back.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual (Rom. 8:15-17)

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

PENTECOST

ltr.

## Call To Worship:

Paul Gibb

Please remain standing for our call to worship and invocational prayer.

Listen, O people, God calls us by name before we are formed, sets us apart not for glory, but for love.

### We come, called and claimed by a faithful God.

Here stands Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world and invites us to follow.

### We come, longing to see where Christ abides.

God's servant is named not to dominate, but to restore, to gather, to shine light into the world.

### We come to be shaped as witnesses, bearers of hope, and seekers of truth.

Come and see what God is doing among us.

### We come to worship the One who calls us, the Christ who meets us, and the Spirit who sends us forth.

Please join me in prayer,

**Holy and calling God, you speak our names before we know how to listen, you shape our lives with purpose beyond our imagining, and you send your light into the shadows of the world.**

**As we gather in this place, draw us closer to Christ, the Lamb who reveals your mercy, the Teacher who invites us to follow, the Savior who stays with us.**

**Open our hearts to see where Jesus abides in the words we hear, in the prayers we lift, in the neighbors we love, and in the work of justice you place before us.**

**By your Spirit, form us again as your servants: not discouraged by the world's resistance, not distracted by our own fears, but faithful to the call to be light, to restore hope, and to witness to your redeeming love.**

**We offer this worship to you, O God, ready to listen, ready to follow, ready to be sent. Amen.**

Now, let us remain standing as we lift our voices to sing, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

**Hymn:****"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

NCH 423

423

**Great Is Your Faithfulness***Lam. 3:22-23**Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.*

\*originally "my Father"

*This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.*

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10, with refrain  
*William M. Runyan, 1923*

Copyright © 1923, Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

*Refrain*

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by  
 morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your  
 hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!

## Old Testament

Isaiah 49:1-7

JR Rasch

Hear now the words of the prophet Isaiah. Written to a people who felt forgotten and worn down by exile, this passage speaks God's persistent call to bring light where there is despair. God names and claims a servant, not for power or privilege, but for restoration, justice, and hope for all nations. In these words, we listen for how God is still calling us, individually and as the church, to be a light beyond ourselves, faithful even when the work feels unseen.

“Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, people far away. The Lord called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my mother’s womb. He made my mouth like a sharp sword and hid me in the shadow of God’s own hand. He made me a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God’s quiver, saying to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I show my glory.”

But I said, “I have wearied myself in vain. I have used up my strength for nothing.” Nevertheless, the Lord will grant me justice; my reward is with my God. And now the Lord has decided the one who formed me from the womb as his servant to restore Jacob to God, so that Israel might return to him. Moreover, I’m honored in the Lord’s eyes; my God has become my strength. He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant, to

raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to bring back the survivors of Israel. Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nation so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

The Lord, redeemer of Israel and its holy one, says to one despised, rejected by nations, to the slave of rulers: Kings will see and stand up; commanders will bow down on account of the Lord, who is faithful, the holy one of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Here ends the Old Testament reading. Let us lift our voices to sing “Jesus, Name Above All Names.”

**Chorus:**                   “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

177    Jesus, Name Above All Names

*Unison*

Je - sus, name a-bove all names, beau-ti - ful Sav - ior,  
glo-ri-ous Lord. Em-man - u - el, God is  
with us, bless-ed Re-deem - er, Liv-ing Word.

WORDS and MUSIC: Naida Hearn (1944- )  
Words and Music © 1974 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

## Gospel

John 1:29-42

Rod Rasch-Claussen

In our Gospel reading today, we meet John the Baptist pointing beyond himself to Jesus, calling him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We hear of first encounters of disciples who are curious, searching, and willing to follow. This passage reminds us that faith often begins not with certainty, but with an invitation: "Come and see." As we listen, may we hear Christ calling us by name and inviting us into a deeper life of discipleship and witness. I invite you to stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel according to John, chapter one, verses twenty-nine through forty-two.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel.' John testified, 'I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son.'

The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus walking along, he said, 'Look! The Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?" They said, 'Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?" He replied, 'Come and see.' So, they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Christ). He led him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter)."

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

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

Please remain standing as we sing "Jesus, Name Above All Names."

**Chorus:** “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

177 Jesus, Name Above All Names

*Unison*

Je - sus, name a-bove all names, beau-ti - ful Sav - ior,

glo-ri-ous Lord. Em-man - u - el, God is

with us, bless-ed Re-deem - er, Liv-ing Word.

WORDS and MUSIC: Naida Hearn (1944- )  
Words and Music © 1974 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

**Commentary**

“Are You Listening?”

Pastor James

**Hymn of Response:** “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove” NCH281

**Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove** 281

*Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.* *John 1:32*



1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-en-ing powers;  
2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we strive to rise;  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-en-ing powers;

Kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.  
Ho - san-nas lan - guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.  
Come, shed on us the Sav - ior's love, that it may kin - dle ours.

*This text from an early collection of Watts' Hymns and Spiritual Songs (1707) has seen many modifications through the years, including some made by John Wesley on theological grounds.*

Tune: ST. AGNES C.M.  
*John B. Dykes, 1866*

**In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry**

**Ministry of Generosity-Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works**

**Offertory-Meditation.**

Paul Gibb

Please be seated, God calls us by name and sends us as light to the world. Like John who pointed beyond himself, and like the servant called to gather and restore, we offer not to draw attention to ourselves, but to witness God's love at work among us. In gratitude for the gifts we have received and in hope for the light God is still bringing into the world. As the Ushers come forward, let us now share our tithes and offerings as you are able.

**Offertory:** “Theme from On Golden Pond” Mike Welden

**\*Doxology**

## **Offering our Prayer Concerns, Joys/Thanksgivings, Prayer of Reconciliation, Words of Encouragement, and Passing of the Peace**

Pastor James

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

Pastor James: God of grace and truth, we come before you with the concerns of our hearts, trusting in your mercy. You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, hear our prayers for a world still aching for healing and hope. We lift to you all who feel unseen or unheard, all who are searching for belonging, purpose, or peace. As Jesus turned and asked, "What are you looking for?" help us to name our deepest longings and place them in your care. Be near to those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; to those burdened by injustice, violence, or fear; and to all who wait for good news that feels slow in coming. Call us again to follow, so that our lives may point others toward your love, and our witness may echo the words, "Come and see." We offer these prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you abide with us, now and always.

### **Lord, hear our prayers**

Pastor James: God of light and love, we give you thanks for the One who comes among us. We rejoice that you call us by name, meet us where we are, and invite us to come and see. With gratitude, we praise you for faith discovered, for lives transformed by encounter, for the joy of following Jesus and sharing his love. Thank you for a grace that seeks us out, and a hope that draws us deeper into your way. With thankful hearts and trusting spirits, we turn now to the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

**\*All: Loving 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor James: 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: "Lean On, O King Eternal".

**Sending Hymn:****“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”**

NCH573

573

**Lead On Eternal Sovereign***Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.*

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;  
2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,  
3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:  
for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:  
and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer-ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,  
That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,  
Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.  
our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.  
to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

*At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.*

Tune: **LANCASHIRE** 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Henry T. Smart, 1836*

**Spoken Benediction:**

Pastor James

**Sung Benediction:**

“Shalom”

UMH666

666      *Unison D*

**Shalom to You**

Sha-lom to you now, sha-lom, my friends.

May God's full mer-cies bless you, my friends.

In all your liv-ing and through your lov-ing,

Christ be your sha-lom, Christ be your sha-lom.

WORDS: Elise S. Estlinger, 1980

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

MUSIC: Trad. Spanish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1989

Irr.

Words © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**Postlude:**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Mike Welden

## Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Mike Welden**, piano, and the **pop-up choir** for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Paul Gibb, JR Rasch** and **Rod Rasch-Claussen** for serving as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** and **Rich Fluechting** 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 Zeece** and **Lynda Toland** for welcoming us this morning.

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

Flowers this morning are offered to the glory of God by friends of Jim Nixon.

--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: 3 --- Facebook Live: 12

### Sunday Offerings

Offering \$1,572 On-Line: \$2,203  
Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$397,087

## Ministries of Leadership and Support

**--Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be March 11 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 Fluechting** to receive the Zoom Invitation.

**--Congregation Meetings** are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is February 15 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**, [dinoinps@gmail.com](mailto:dinoinps@gmail.com) or **Bill Wallace** at [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org).

--For more information on the United Church of Christ, visit [www.ucc.org](http://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 beginning January 13 at 6pm on Zoom. Discussing: "The Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists and Flock-Fleecing Frauds" by John Fuglesang,

--"Blooming Together Grief Support Group" will begin on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 12 noon until 1:30pm in the Bloom Office. It will be facilitated by psychotherapist Chris Flores at no charge. The ongoing grief support group will help individuals heal from deaths and losses. Please reserve your space by contacting Gary Lange or the Bloom office.

For more information, please contact our Education Coordinator, Gary Lange at 760-773-1014 or [garylange13@gmail.com](mailto: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. To volunteer, Go to: [wellinthedesert.com](http://wellinthedesert.com) and select location, date and time.

### 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 Jan 19	Tuesday Jan 20	Wednesday Jan 21	Thursday Jan 22	Friday Jan 23	Saturday Jan 24	Sunday Jan 25
<b>10:30am- 1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am- 1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist  <b>6:00pm</b> Book Group on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Oscars  <b>12:00pm</b> Grief Support Group in the office	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	<b>10:00am – 2:00pm</b> Garage Sale at the Cassettes	<b>10:am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live  <b>3:30pm</b> Installation Service at Demuth

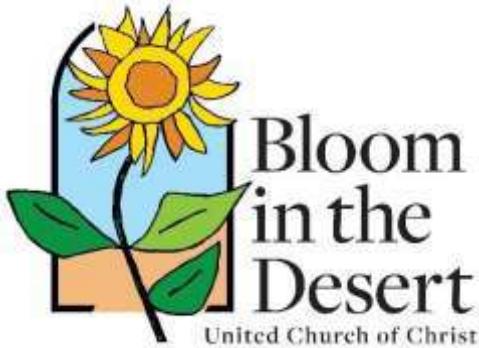
**God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.**

Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.

**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.

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# 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](mailto:james@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Rich Fluechting, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — [moderator@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262**

**760-327-3802 — [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:info@bloominthedesert.org)**

