

Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:50: Pre-Service Music “Sweet By and By” Paul Cady
Joseph P. Webster arr. by Mark Hayes

10:00 am: Welcome and News of the Congregation Mindy Harrington

Gathering Song: “I Love You, Lord” FWS2068

2068 I Love You, Lord

I love you, Lord, — and I lift my voice — to
wor - ship you, O my soul re - joice. Take
joy, my King, — in what you hear, — may it be a
sweet, sweet sound in your ear. —

WORDS: Laurie Klein (Ps. 35:9)
MUSIC: Laurie Klein
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I LOVE YOU, LORD
Irregular

Call To Worship Mindy Harrington

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

Blessed are those who delight in God’s ways, who live with courage, compassion, and trust.

Their hearts are firm, secure in God’s love and faithfulness.

Jesus calls us to be salt of the earth and light of the world to live with integrity, mercy, and hope.

We come to shine God’s light in a world longing for justice and peace.

Let us worship the One whose righteousness endures forever.

With grateful hearts, we worship God. Amen.

Please join me in prayer,

Holy and Radiant God,

You bless those who seek your wisdom and walk in your ways of justice and mercy. As we gather in your presence, shape our hearts to reflect your light and strengthen our spirits to live your love.

Make us salt that brings healing and hope, and light that guides others toward grace and truth. Root us in your righteousness, that our lives may bear witness to your reign of compassion, courage, and peace.

May our worship honor you, renew our faith, and send us forth ready to serve faithful to your commandments and alive in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

Now, let us remain standing as we lift our voices to sing, All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine, hymn number 166 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

Hymn

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”

UMH166

166 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

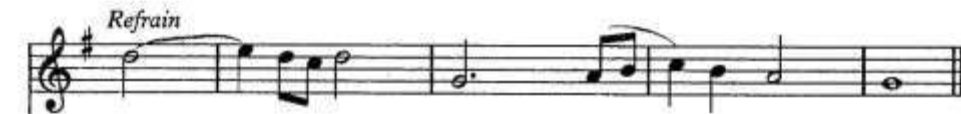
1. All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, didst
2. Thou cam'st to us, in low - li - ness of thought; by
3. Let this mind be in us which was in thee,
4. Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur-pose, thou
5. Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord in

yield the glo - ry that of right was thine,
thee the out - cast and the poor were sought,
who wast a ser - vant, that we might be free,
art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea-tures now,
heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord;

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The second system has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.



that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine:
and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought:
hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry:
and given the name to which all knees shall bow:
and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



WORDS: F. Bland Tucker, 1938 (Phil. 2-5-11)
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Words © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund

SINE NOMINE
10 10 10 with Alleluis
Alt. tune: ENGELBERG

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 112:1-10

Brian Schimpf

Psalm 112 paints a portrait of a life rooted in reverence for God. One marked by generosity, courage, justice, and steadfast trust. It reminds us that true blessing is not measured by wealth or power, but by compassion, integrity, and care for those in need. As we hear these words of Psalm 112, verses 1 through 10, we are invited to reflect on how our faith shapes the way we live, love, and seek the well-being of our neighbors and our world.

Praise the Lord! Those who honor the Lord, who adore God's commandments, are truly happy! Their descendants will be strong throughout the land. The offspring of those who do right will be blessed; wealth and riches will be in their houses. Their righteousness stands forever. They shine in the dark for others who do right. They are merciful, compassionate, and righteous. Those who lend generously are good people as are those who conduct their affairs with justice. Yes, these sorts of people will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever! They won't be frightened at bad news. Their hearts are steady, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are firm; they aren't afraid. In the end, they will witness their enemies' defeat. They give freely to those in need. Their righteousness stands forever. Their strength increases gloriously. The wicked see all this and fume; they grind their teeth but disappear to nothing. What the wicked want to see happen comes to nothing!

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Cindy Schimpf

In this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to live as salt and light, as people whose faith is not hidden, but revealed through love, justice, and faithful living. Christ reminds us that God's law is not about burden, but about guiding us into deeper righteousness, compassion, and integrity. As we hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, please rise in body or in spirit for the reading from Matthew, chapter 5, verses 13 through 20.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.”

“Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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”

W&R177

177 Jesus, Name Above All Names

Unison

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

The image shows a musical score for the chorus. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/8. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The word 'Unison' is written above the first few notes of the treble staff.



glo-ri-ous Lord, Em-man-u-el, God is
with us, bless-ed Re-deem-er, Liv-ing Word.

Commentary

“Turn On Your Heart Light”

Pastor James

Hymn of Response:

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

FWS2173

2173 Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain



Shine, Je-sus, shine, _ fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo-ry,
blaze, Spir-it, blaze, _ set our hearts on fire;
flow, riv-er, flow, _ flood the na-tions with grace and mer-cy,
send forth your word, _ Lord, and let there be light. *Fine*

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,

in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing;
 from the shad - ows in - to your ra - di - ance;
 so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness;

Je - sus, Light of the World, shine up - on us,
 by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness,
 ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness.
 mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry.

D.C.

Shine on me, shine on me.
 Shine on me, shine on me.
 Shine on me, shine on me.

WORDS: Graham Kendrick (2 Cor. 4:6)
 MUSIC: Graham Kendrick

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
 Irregular with Refrain

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Reception of Members

Presentation and Introduction of New Members

John DiNapoli

We invite those who are becoming members or associate members with us in Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ to come forward.

Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the family of Christ. They are here to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, the church, the community, and the world, using the gifts which God's Spirit bestows. *Brief words of introduction of each person.*

Welcome of New Members

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator

“You are no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here. God is building a home, using us all—irrespective of how we got here! God used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now God is using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day by day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Membership Covenant

John DiNapoli

Do you promise by the grace of God to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to share in the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidates reply I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering Christ’s mission in the world?

Candidates reply I promise, with the help of God.

Vision Statement

Brian Schimpf

Let us read together the Vision Statement adopted by the congregation.

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.

The Assistant Moderator addresses the new members

You have had spiritual encounters and experiences throughout your life, perhaps with family, churches, or other spiritual communities. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community that has nurtured you and been nurtured by your presence along your spiritual journey. Today we celebrate your presence among us in this household of faith.

Covenant Promise of Participation

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator

Members of the congregation may also take this opportunity to reaffirm their covenant of membership.

Do you promise, as you are able, to participate in and support the life and mission of this family of God’s people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as we serve this community and the world? If so, please respond: “I promise with the help of God.”

Candidates reply I promise, with the help of God.

Covenant Promise of the Congregation

John DiNapoli

As a gathered congregation, let us express to these persons our welcome and affirm our covenant of mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We members and friends of Bloom in the Desert United Church of Christ, joyfully welcome you into membership of this church. We promise to love you as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. We will walk with you amidst life's hopes and fears, in happiness and sadness. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in our faith, as we love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and as we love one another and our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer

Pastor James

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your people and for gathering us into the Body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us our new members, that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your eternal covenant with every living creature that we may live in our spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, our savior, brother, sovereign, and friend. Let the congregation say "amen."

Amen.

Greetings of Christian Love

John DiNapoli, Rich Fluechtling, Brian Schimpf

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Bloom in the Desert United Church of Christ, we extend to you our Christian love, welcoming you into the community of this local church.

The congregation may affirm their welcome with applause. New members sign the Register and place a rock in the membership vase.

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

Mindy Harrington

Please be seated, Jesus calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world—people whose lives add flavor, preserve hope, and shine God's love in dark places. As we offer our gifts today, we participate in that calling, supporting ministries that bring healing, justice, and compassion into our community and beyond. Let us give as we are able, so that our light may shine and God's love may be made visible through us.

Offertory:

"Heavenly Sunlight"

Paul Cady

George Harrison Clark arranged by Mark Hayes

***Doxology**

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

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

Pastor James

Prayer of Concerns

Loving God,

You call us to walk in your ways to live with generosity, courage, and hope. You name us as salt of the earth and light for the world, yet we confess that we do not always shine as brightly or love as boldly as you invite us to do.

We lift before you all who are hurting this day, those facing illness, loss, fear, or uncertainty. Strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and guide all who seek justice, peace, and a better way forward.

Help us to live our faith not only in words, but in actions that reflect your mercy and your truth, so that your light may be seen through us.

Now we pause to offer the prayers of our hearts, spoken or held in silence before you.

[Silent prayer]

Receive these prayers, O God, and send us out as your salt and your light, living your love in the world.

Lord, Hear our prayers.

Prayer of Joy and Thanksgiving

God of light and generosity, we give you thanks for the blessings that grow when we live with reverence and compassion. Thank you for hearts that delight in your ways, for lives rooted in justice, generosity, and hope, and for the promise that goodness shines even in uncertain times.

We rejoice that you call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world to season life with kindness, to shine with mercy, and to live our faith out loud through love and good works.

May our gratitude become action, and our joy become a witness to your grace. With thankful hearts and trusting spirits, we lift our voices together, praying the words Jesus taught us, saying:

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: "This Little Light of Mine"

Sending Hymn:

“This Little Light of Mine”

1. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
3. All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine,
All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine;
All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
4. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Spoken Benediction:

Pastor James

Sung Benediction:

“Shalom to You”

UMH666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends,
May God’s mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude:

“Praise Ye the Triune God”

Paul Cady

Larry Shackleton tune by Friedrich F Flemming

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Mindy Harrington, Brian Schimpf and Cindy Schimpf**, for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **John DiNapoli** and **Rich Flichtling** for welcoming new members.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** and **David Smith** 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, Rich Fluechtling and Stephen Hodge** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

Flowers this morning are offered to the glory of God by **Mindy and Pete Harrington** in celebration of their 51st anniversary.

--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: 58 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0 -- Facebook Live: 4

Sunday Offerings

Offering: \$1,562 On-Line: \$2,844

Permanence Fund: \$300 Cumulative: \$397,887

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 **Brian Schimpf** 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 and on Zoom. Contact Brian Schimpf for the zoom invitation.

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

Book Study: "Separation of Church and Hate; A Sane Persons Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock- Fleecing Frauds"

The Bloom Book Club meets on Zoom, Tuesdays at 6:00 pm.

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

"Blooming Together Grief Support Group" will meet next on February 11th from 12 noon until 1:30pm in the Bloom Church Office. It will be facilitated by psychotherapist Chris Flores at no charge.

If you need further information or have questions, contact Gary Lange, 760-773-1014 or GaryLange13@gmail.com

Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch served weekdays 10:30am to 1pm:** Come serve lunch at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs on Mondays and Tuesdays, located at 1555 E. Alejo Rd, Palm Springs. On Wednesdays at Oscars 125 E Tahquitz Canyon Way. 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 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 – First Wednesday from 8:30 to 11am and Third Wednesday from 5:30 to 9:30pm of each month at Wash Time Laundromat at Sunrise and Vista Chino. Contact Carol Moore to volunteer.**

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

Bloom Happenings This Week

| Monday Feb 9 | Tuesday Feb 10 | Wednesday Feb 11 | Thursday Feb 12 | Friday Feb 13 | Saturday Feb 14 | Sunday Feb. 15 |
|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------|---|
| <p>10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist</p> | <p>10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist</p> <p>6:00pm Book Group on Zoom</p> | <p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Oscars</p> <p>Noon Grief Support Group in the office</p> | <p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude</p> | <p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> | | <p>10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live</p> <p>Noon Annual Meeting After the service</p> |

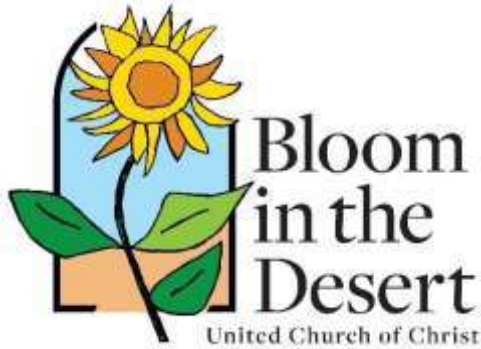
God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.

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

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

