



Sunday, March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday
Honoring Women's History Month

9:50: Pre-Service Music “Song from A Secret Garden” Paul Cady
By Rolf Loveland

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

Gathering Song: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” TFWS2088

2088 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your prais - es.

I'm so glad you're in my life;

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heav - en to earth - to show the way, -

- from the earth - to the cross - my debt to pay; -

— from the cross to the grave, — from the grave to the sky; —
 — Lord, I lift your name on high.

WORDS: Rick Founds (1 Cor. 15:3-4) LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH
 MUSIC: Rick Founds Irregular
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Call To Worship

Mindy Harrington

Please remain standing for our call to worship, followed by our prayer of invocation.

Come, let us gather on the road. A road lined with hope, with questions, with longing.

We come to walk The Way.

We come with branches in our hands and praise on our lips—

but also, with uncertainty in our hearts.

For this is no ordinary parade. This is the way of humility, the way of justice, the way of love that disrupts the world.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Do not fret over the ways of the world, for God is still at work, making a path where there is none.

We trust in the Lord and choose the way of love.

Jesus rides in, not with power as the world defines it, but with peace, with courage, with unwavering compassion.

We will follow, even when the road is hard.

If we are silent, even the stones would cry out—

so, we lift our voices, we raise our hopes, we join the procession.

Come, let us worship the One who leads us on The Way.

Hosanna in the highest!

Please join me in our prayer of invocation.

Jesus of Palm Sunday parades, be with us on The Way. We wonder if we have what it takes to truly march in the name of justice and love for all people.

Are we able to sacrifice the paths that benefit only us for the ones that make a way in the wilderness for the least? We come seeking your courage and resolve in order to follow your way of love. Amen.

Now, let us remain standing as we lift our voices to sing, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna."

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna 278

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang,
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:1-9

Loretta Martin

We turn to the Psalms this Palm Sunday, we might expect only shouts of joy and celebration, echoes of “Hosanna!” ringing through the streets. And yet, Psalm 37 invites us into something deeper, something steadier.

These verses speak to a world that feels off balance, where injustice seems to flourish and goodness can feel fragile. The psalmist does not ignore that reality. Instead, they offer a quiet but powerful invitation: Do not fret. Trust in God. Commit your way to the Holy One.

On a day when crowds line the road with palms and praise, this psalm reminds us that the way of Jesus is not only about the parade, it is also about trust, patience, and choosing the path of righteousness even when it is hard.

So, as we listen, we hold both truths together: the celebration of Palm Sunday and the call to a deeper, grounded faith. Let us listen now for God’s word to us in Psalm 37:1–9.

“Don’t get upset over evildoers; don’t be jealous of those who do wrong, because they will fade fast, like grass; they will wither like green vegetables.

Trust the Lord and do good; live in the land, and farm faithfulness. Enjoy the Lord, and God will give what your heart asks.

Commit your way to the Lord! Trust God! God will act and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like high noon.

Be still before the Lord and wait for God. Don’t get upset when someone gets ahead, someone who invents evil schemes.

Let go of anger and leave rage behind! Don’t get upset, it will only lead to evil.

Because evildoers will be eliminated, but those who hope in the Lord, they will possess the land.”

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:28-40

Lance Tines

Today we enter a story that is both celebration and disruption. Jesus is on the move, heading toward Jerusalem. Not on a warhorse, not with power as the world defines it, but on a borrowed colt, surrounded by ordinary people who dare to hope that God’s way of peace and justice is finally breaking through.

They shout “Hosanna!” which means “Save us!” Not just a cheer, but a cry. A longing. A prayer rising from people who know the world is not as it should be. And yet, even in the joy, there is tension. There are those who want the noise to quiet down, who are uncomfortable with this kind of hope, this kind of public, embodied praise. But Jesus

says something remarkable: “If these were silent, the stones would shout out.” Because God’s movement toward justice, toward love, toward liberation will not be silenced.

So today, we listen for our place in the story. Are we among those laying down cloaks, making a way? Are we joining the chorus, crying out for a better world? Or are we still finding our voice? As we hear this familiar story again, may we not just remember it, instead may we step into it.

Let us listen for the Word of God from the Gospel according to Luke. I invite you to stand as you are able in body or in spirit for the reading of the Gospel.

“After Jesus said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As Jesus came to Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. He said, ‘Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there, a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘Its master needs it.’ Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said.

As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ They replied, ‘Its master needs it.’ They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road.

As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen. They said, ‘Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.’

Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!” He answered, ‘I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout.’”

Here ends the reading. This is the good news of Jesus Christ,

ALL: Thanks be to God, AMEN.

This morning, we are gifted with music that rings with both beauty and spirit. Our bell choir offers not just notes, but a reminder that many voices, many hands, can come together to create something holy and whole. As you listen, may these tones draw you into a moment of reflection, joy, and the presence of God among us.

Special Music

“Praise to the Lord”

Bloom’s Bells

By Michael Hellman based on the tune “Lobe den Herren.”

Commentary

“Line Up For A Parade”

Pastor James

2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de -
 cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol-low
 2. The world behind me, the cross before me ...
 3. Though none go with me, still I will follow ...
 Je - sus — no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

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

Mindy Harrington

On this Palm Sunday, we remember a parade of hope. Jesus entering not with power, but with humility and love. So, we ask: what might we lay down? What might we offer? We give as an act of love and justice, joining in God’s work of healing the world. Let us offer our gifts with gratitude and faith.

Offertory

“Gabriel’s Oboe”

John Sagos, violin

From “The Mission” by Ennio Morrison

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

Prayer of Concerns, Joy & Thanksgiving

Pastor James

Concerns: God of steadfast love and quiet justice, we come before you on this Palm Sunday. A day of waving branches and hopeful songs, and a day that already leans toward the shadow of the cross.

You call us, through the psalmist, not to fret over what is wrong in the world, not to be consumed by anger or envy, but to trust in you, to do good, to delight in your way. And yet, O God, we confess how hard that can be.

We see injustice and feel overwhelmed. We witness cruelty and feel anger rise. We long for righteousness but grow weary waiting for it to take root. So, we bring to you the weight we carry, the concerns of our hearts for this world: for places where violence speaks louder than peace, for communities fractured by fear and division, for those who suffer while others prosper unjustly.

We lift up those closer to home: neighbors in need, relationships that feel strained, lives touched by illness, grief, or uncertainty. And in the quiet of this moment, we offer to you the prayers we carry in silence...

(pause for silent prayer)

Gentle God, meet us in these prayers. Teach us again what it means to trust in you, not as passive waiting, but as active faithfulness. Root us deeply in your goodness so that we may not be shaken by what we see, but instead become people who do good, who seek peace, who embody your love in real and tangible ways.

On this day when we remember the crowds crying “Hosanna,” remind us that following Jesus is not only about praise, it is about the path he walks. A path of humility. A path of courage. A path of justice and love for all.

Give us the strength to walk that way, even when it is not easy, even when the world pulls us elsewhere. And hold us, always, in your steadfast love, the kind that does not fade, the kind that does not fail, the kind that carries us from palm branches to resurrection hope.

In the name of Jesus, who shows us The Way, we pray and ask you:

ALL: Lord, hear our prayers.

Joy & Thanksgiving: Gracious and welcoming God, on this day of palms and praise, we give you thanks. We thank you for Jesus, who did not choose power as the world understands it, but came riding in humility, entering the city not with force, but with love.

We thank you for the voices that cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” for the courage to hope, for the longing for liberation, for the glimpse of your kingdom breaking in. We thank you that even when the stones seem silent, your truth cannot be contained. Your justice will rise. Your peace will find a way. And we thank you that this story is not just one we remember, it is one we are invited to live.

So, shape us, O God, into people who will lay down what we have, our pride, our fear, our comfort, so that your love might have a clearer path.

Teach us to follow Christ not only in celebration, but in courage, in compassion, in the costly work of justice and peace.

With grateful hearts, we join our voices together, praying the prayer Jesus taught us, 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, forever 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, All Honor, Laud, and Glory.

280 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

Fine

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da-vid's roy - al Son,
 2. The com-pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing thee on high,
 3. The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms be-fore thee went;
 4. To thee, be-fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

D.C.

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho-rus make re - ply.
 our prayer and praise and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King.

WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans, 8-9th cent.; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851
 (Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 11:8-10; Lk. 19:36-38; Jn. 12:12-13)
 MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. THEODULPH
 76.76 D

Spoken Benediction

Pastor James

Sung Benediction

“Shalom to You”
(sung twice)

UMH666

666 *Unison* D Em A7 D

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

Bm Em A7 D

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

G Em A F#m

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

Bm Em A7 D

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

WORDS: Elise S. Eslinger, 1980

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

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Irr.

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

Postlude:

“Rejoice the Lord Is King”
By John Darnell

Paul Cady

Go in peace

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Paul Cady**, piano, **Bloom's Bells**, **John Sagos**, violin, and the **pop-up choir** for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--**Thank you, Mindy Harrington, Loretta Martin and Lance Tines**, for serving as readers for today's service.

--**Thank you to Jackson Enzler 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, **Gary Lange** and **Robert Van Dyke**, for welcoming us this morning.

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

Flowers this morning are offered by **John DiNapoli** and **Wayne Sinclair** in celebration of Wayne's 80th birthday.

--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: 53 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1
-- Facebook Live: 5

Sunday Offerings

Offering: \$697 On-Line: \$587
Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$395,213
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$120 Cumulative: \$398

Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be April 8 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 May 10 after the service 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**, dinojnps@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

Bloom Book Club is taking a Lenten break but will begin again on April 7th at 6:00 via Zoom link below. The next book is:

"I Never Thought of it That Way, How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times." by Monica Guzman. Available on Kindle, Audio Book, or hard back.

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 11 am and Third Wednesday from 5:30 to 9:30 pm of each month. Contact Carol Moore to volunteer. This is on hiatus until they find another location.

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

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Mar. 30	Tuesday Mar. 31	Wednesday Apr. 1	Thursday Apr. 2	Friday Apr. 3	Saturday Apr. 4	Sunday Apr. 5
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch served at United Methodist	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Oscars	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		10:am Easter 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.

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

Brian Schimpf, Moderator — 978-340-6736 — 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

