

**Second Sunday of Easter  
April 12, 2026**

**9:50: Pre-Service Music** “For The Beauty of the Earth”  
by Conrad Kocher arr. by Kenon D Renfrow

Paul Cady

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

Bill Phelps-Ramos

**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;



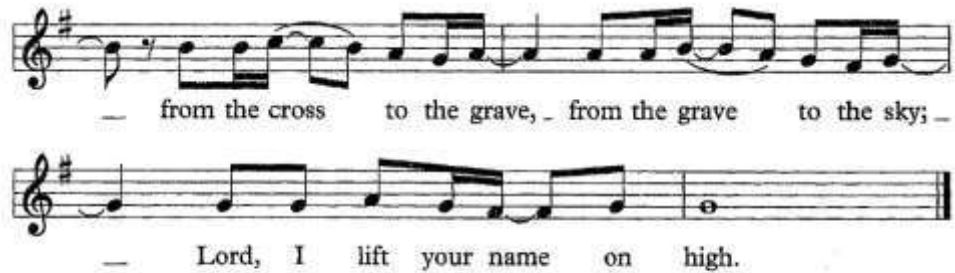
I'm so glad you came to save us.



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



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



WORDS: Rick Founds (1 Cor. 15:3-4)  
MUSIC: Rick Founds

LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH  
Irregular

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**\*Please remain standing as you are able in body or spirit for our Call To Worship and Prayer of Invocation. \***

### **Call To Worship**

Rich Fluechtling

In the midst of confusion and questions, when voices rise and the world feels uncertain, we gather together.

**We come seeking truth. We come longing for hope.**

On that first day of bold witness, Peter the Apostle stood among the people and spoke, not with fear, but with courage rooted in God's promise.

**We come to hear that same promise spoken again.**

A promise that even in the face of death, God is still at work bringing life.

**We come to trust in the God who does not abandon us.**

A promise that Christ is risen, and nothing, not even the grave has the final word.

**We come to rejoice in the living Christ.**

So let us lift our voices, open our hearts, and worship the God of resurrection and new life.

**Let us worship God!**

Please join me in our prayer of invocation.

**Holy God of locked rooms and open doors, we come as we are with faith and doubt, hope and fear. Like the disciples, we long for your presence. And still, you come among us, saying, "Peace be with you."**

**Breathe that peace into us now into our anxious hearts and searching spirits. Meet us in our questions and lead us into deeper trust.**

**Open us to your Spirit and shape us into a people of peace.**

**In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Now, let us remain standing as we lift our voices to sing, “Breathe on Me, Breath of God.”

**Hymn**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

NCH292

**Breathe on Me, Breath of God** 292

*Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.  
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.  
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

*Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).*

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.  
Robert Jackson, 1894

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Allen Vander-Linden

As we turn to the book of Acts, we hear Peter finding his voice in the midst of confusion, fear, and wonder. Standing before the crowd, he begins to make sense of what God has done through Jesus, pointing not to power or certainty, but to a story of life, death, and resurrection that refuses to be silenced. Let us listen for the Word of God in Acts 2:14a, 22–32.

“Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, ‘Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!’

Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. In accordance with God's established plan and foreknowledge, he was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. God raised him up! God freed him from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him. David says about him, I foresaw that the Lord was always with me; because he is at my right hand I won't be shaken.

Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover, my body will live in hope, because you won't abandon me to the grave, nor permit your holy one to experience decay. You have shown me the paths of life; your presence will fill me with happiness.

Brothers and sisters, I can speak confidently about the patriarch David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this very day. Because he was a prophet, he knew that God promised him with a solemn pledge to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Having seen this beforehand, David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that he wasn't abandoned to the grave, nor did his body experience decay. This Jesus God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact.”

Here ends the first scripture reading.

### **Gospel Reading**

John 20:19-31

We come now to a story that meets us in the space between fear and faith, doubt and hope. The disciples are gathered behind locked doors, uncertain of what comes next and it is there, in that very place, that the risen Christ appears. Not with judgment, but with peace. Not with condemnation, but with presence.

And in the days that follow, Thomas gives voice to what so many of us know: the longing to see, to touch, to understand. This is a story that makes room for both belief and doubt and reminds us that Christ meets us in all of it.

As we hear this good news, may we open ourselves to the presence of the risen Christ among us. I invite you now to stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel according to John chapter twenty verses nineteen through thirty-one.

“It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I am sending you.’ Then he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.’

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, 'We've seen the Lord!' But he replied, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe.'

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!' Thomas responded to Jesus, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus replied, 'Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe.'

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name."

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

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

Please raise your voices to sing "Thy Word Is a Lamp."

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

UMH601

**Thy Word Is a Lamp** 601

*Refrain (Unison)*

Thy word is a lamp un - to my feet and a  
light un - to my path. 1. When I feel a -fraid,  
2. Now I will not for - get your  
think I've lost my way, still you're there right be - side me, and  
love for me and yet my heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.

Bb7 | Fm | Cm | Gm  
 noth - ing will I fear as long as you are near.  
 Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and  
 Ab | Bb7 | Cm | C | G | Bb7 | D.C.  
 Please be near me to the end.  
 I will love you to the end.

WORDS: Amy Grant, 1984 (Ps. 119:105)  
 MUSIC: Michael W. Smith 1984; arr. by Keith Phillips  
 © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. / Bug and Bear Music  
 THY WORD  
 Irr. with Refrain

Commentary

“Eyes of Faith”

Rev. Dr. Steve Wayles

Hymn

“We Live by Faith”

NCH256

## We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

*Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing  
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when  
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.*

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.  
*Samuel McFarland, c. 1816*  
 Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

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

Bill Phelps-Ramos

In John's Gospel, the risen Christ meets fear with peace and sends the disciples out in love. When we give, we join in that same sending, sharing peace, hope, and love with the world. So let us offer our gifts with gratitude, trusting God will use them for good. Let us give as we are able, I invite the Ushers to come to pass the offering baskets.

### Offertory:

"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"  
 by Lowell Mason, arr. by Kenon D Renfrow

Paul Cady

### \*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.**

Concerns: Loving God,

we come to you as the disciples once did with hearts that hold both fear and hope. You meet us where we are and speak your peace: Peace be with you. So, we bring to you the concerns of our lives and our world.

For all who are living in fear, for those facing violence, uncertainty, or anxiety breathe your peace into every troubled space. For those who are grieving and carrying loss, draw near with comfort and hope. For those who doubt and question, meet them with patience, grace, and love. For those who are sick, weary, or burdened, bring healing and renewal.

For your church, that we may be bearers of your peace in the world. And now, in the quiet of this moment, we lift the prayers of our hearts...

(A time of silent prayer is kept.)

Into your loving hands, O Christ, we place all these prayers. And together we say:

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayers.**

Joy & Thanksgiving: God of peace, who meets us behind locked doors, we give you thanks for the gift of your presence for showing up in our fear, for speaking peace into our anxious hearts, for breathing new life into us again and again.

We thank you for the gift of faith, even when it comes with questions, even when we long, like Thomas, to see and touch and know. You meet us there too with patience, with grace, with love that does not let us go.

Fill us with resurrection joy, that we might carry your peace into the world, living as people who have seen your love at work among us. And now, with grateful hearts, we join our voices together in 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**

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, "Yours is the Glory."

**Sending Hymn:**

"Yours is the Glory"

UMH327

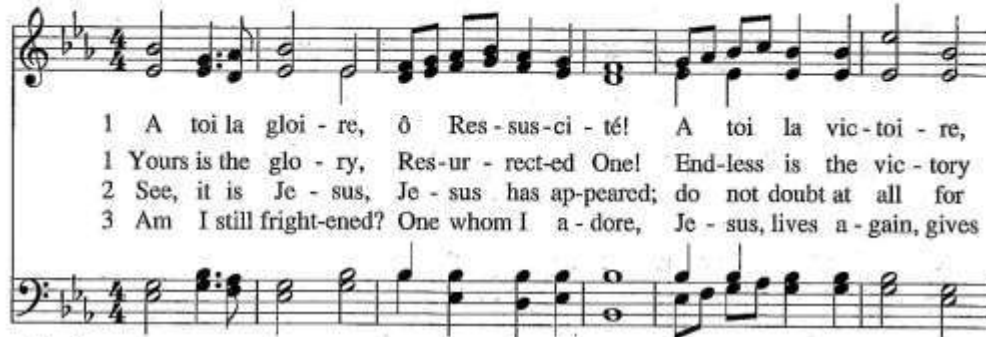
253

**A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!**  
(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

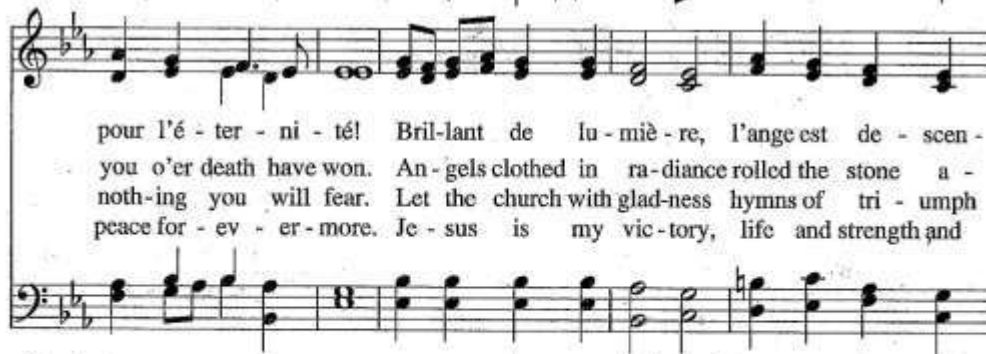
*Mat. 28:1-10; John 20:19-29; 1 Cor. 15:54-55*

*Edmond L. Budry, 1904*

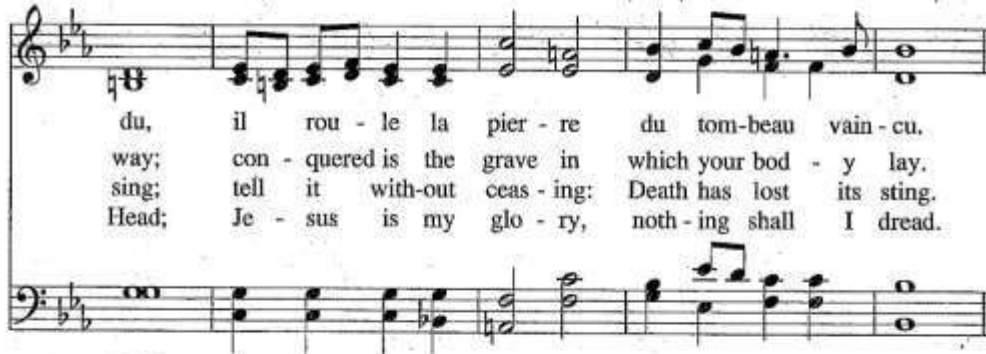
*Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993*



1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,  
1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory  
2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for  
3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives



pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -  
you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - dianc - e rolled the stone a -  
noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph  
peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and



du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.  
way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.  
sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.  
Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

*Refrain*



A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!  
Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!  
End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

**Spoken Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Steve Wayles

**Sung Benediction**

“Shalom to You”  
(sung twice)

UMH666

666 *Unison* **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. Eslinger, 1980

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

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

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Irr.

**Postlude:**

“Rejoice the Lord Is King”  
by John Darwell, arr. by Craig Curry

Paul Cady

## 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, **Bill Phelps-Ramos**, **Allen Vander-Linden** and **Ray Allen**, 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, **Bob Patnode** and **Ray Stimson**, 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 Phyllis Ramsey in memory of Joe's birthday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

--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:57 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 8

-- Facebook Live: 6

### Sunday Offerings

Offering: \$1,933 On-Line: \$3,079

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$395,413

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The Bloom Book Club meets Tuesdays at 6:00 via Zoom link below. The 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. The Zoom link is:

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

For more information contact: Gary Lange 760-773-1014 or

[GaryLange13@gmail.com](mailto:GaryLange13@gmail.com)

## Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be March 18 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**, [dinoins@gmail.com](mailto:dinoins@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 meets Tuesdays at 6:00 via Zoom link below. The current 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. The Zoom link is:

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

For more information contact: Gary Lange 760-773-1014 or [GaryLange13@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 – 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.

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
<b>Monday April 13</b>	<b>Tuesday April 14</b>	<b>Wednesday April 15</b>	<b>Thursday April 16</b>	<b>Friday April 17</b>	<b>Saturday April 18</b>	<b>Sunday April 19</b>
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch served at United Methodist  <b>6:00pm</b> Book Group on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Oscars	<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:am</b> 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.

**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.  
**All music** contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved



# 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)**

**Brian Schimpf, Moderator — 978-340-6736 — [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)**

