



Easter
April 5, 2026
Communion Sunday

9:50: Pre-Service Music

“Behold the Man”
 by Jimmy Owen’s arr. by Dino Kartsonakis

Paul Cady

10:00 am: Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rich Fluechtling

Gathering Song:

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

UMH302

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo-rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - tory, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
 77.77 D

***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

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, love went looking for what had been lost. Grief stood at the tomb, wondering what could possibly come next. And then the stone is rolled away, emptiness speaking louder than death, and a voice calling a name in the garden.

Christ is risen! Love has the final word! Life has broken through!

We come today with questions and hope, with sorrow and joy woven together, with hearts ready to hear our name spoken by the Living Christ.

We come to celebrate that life wins! We come to be renewed in love that never ends!

God of renewed life, you meet us in the shadows and call us into light. You turn our mourning into movement, our fear into proclamation, our endings into beginnings.

Open us to your unending love. Breathe your Spirit into us again.

As Mary ran to share the good news, send us from this place ready to witness to love boldly, to live fully, to begin again.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Please join me in our prayer of invocation.

God of Renewed Life, we give you thanks for Ultimate Good News—life wins! On this day of celebration of the rising of Jesus, the Christ, we open ourselves to our destination: your unending love. We know that whenever we need direction, we have only to begin the journey afresh and you will come alongside. Thank you, Spirit, for the wind beneath our wings, the pep in our step, the flame of desire for life and love renewed. Amen!

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Phyllis Ramsey

As we turn now to the book of Acts, we hear a story that reminds us the resurrection was never meant to stay contained.

Peter stands among people he once would have kept at a distance and declares a truth that changes everything: God shows no partiality. The good news of Jesus Christ—his life, his death, and his rising—is for all people, everywhere.

On this Easter morning, this is our story too. A story of boundaries broken, of love that reaches farther than we imagined, of new life that refuses to be limited.

Let us listen for God's Word in Acts 10:34-43.

“Peter said, ‘I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’”

Here ends the reading.

On this Easter morning, we step into a story that begins in the dark.

Before the sun rises, before hope feels certain, the Gospel of John tells us that Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb carrying grief, confusion, and love. What she expects to find is death, but what she encounters is something entirely unexpected. An empty tomb. A voice calling her name. A love that refuses to stay buried.

This is not just a story about what happened long ago, this is a story about how resurrection meets us, often when we least expect it, often when we are still standing in the shadows.

So, as we hear these words from John 20:1–18, may we listen for the ways Christ is calling our name, inviting us to see, to turn, and to believe in the new life already breaking open among us. I, invite you to please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

“Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.’ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying?’ She replied, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.’ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?’

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabbouni’ (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, 'Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, 'I've seen the Lord.' Then she told them what he said to her."

Here ends the reading. This is the good news of Jesus. CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!

Please raise your voices to sing "A Wilderness Wandering People."

Chorus:

“A Wilderness Wandering People”

A Wilderness Wandering People

*words and music by
Jim Strathdee

Swing ♩ = 80

We are a wil-der-ness wand-ring peo-ple on a
jour-ney of the soul. May we find our des-ti-na-tion in our long-ing to be
whole. Our Ho-ly God is call-ing to us. With Je-sus by our
side may com-pas-sion be our com-pass may the Spir-it be our
guide, on The Way, on The Way, on The Way.

**in response to "Wilderness Wanderings" by Marilyn Brown Oden*

Words and music copyright © 1996 by Desert Flower Music, www.StrathdeeMusic.com

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

Rich Fluechtling

Friends, on that first Easter morning, Mary came expecting loss and found life. Resurrection still surprises us like that. It meets us where we are and invites us into something new. We give today not because we have it all figured out, but because God is still bringing life out of what seemed lost in this community, and in the world. So, let us offer what we have with hope, trusting that even the smallest gift can become part of God’s ongoing story of resurrection.

Offertory:

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
by George J Elvey. Arr. by Kenon D Renfro

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.**

God of Resurrection and New Life,

On this Easter morning, we come with hearts both full and fragile, full of alleluias, and still carrying the quiet weight of what has been. You meet us in both.

We give you thanks for the empty tomb, for love that refuses to stay buried, for hope that rises even when we least expect it. You are the God who brings life out of loss, light out of darkness, and possibility out of what feels finished.

And so today, we lift our prayers to you. For a world still aching with violence and division, may your peace break forth like dawn. For those who are grieving, lonely, or afraid, may the promise of resurrection hold them gently. For those who feel stuck in places that seem lifeless or uncertain, breathe your Spirit anew.

For your church, that we may be witnesses not only in word but in action living as people of resurrection, choosing love, practicing justice, embodying hope. And now, in the quiet of this sacred moment, we bring to you the prayers that rest in our own hearts both spoken and unspoken as we lift them to you in our silent prayers.

(Time of silent prayer)

God of Easter joy,

We also pause to give you thanks for signs of new life we have seen, for moments of grace that have surprised us, for love that has found us again and again.

We give thanks for community, for laughter that returns, for courage that rises, for the simple, holy reminder that life still wins.

You are still at work among us, O God, and for that, we say: Alleluia. And now, trusting in your unending love, we join our voices together in the prayer 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Now as people who are loved deeply and accepted fully, let us offer one another the Peace of Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor James

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. On this Easter morning, we gather not at an empty table, but at a table alive with presence, a table where death does not have the final word, a table where love rises again.

This is not our table, it belongs to Christ, who welcomes all: those who are certain and those who are searching, those who come with joy and those who carry grief, those who feel close to God and those who wonder if they've wandered too far.

On this day of resurrection, all are invited. Come, for the table is ready.

The Great Thanksgiving

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On this day of resurrection, all are invited. Come, for the table is ready.

The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.
It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Holy and living God, we give you thanks on this Easter morning, for you are the One who brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and light out of the deepest darkness.

When the world felt heavy with loss, when the stone was sealed and hope seemed buried, you were already at work, rolling stones away, breathing new life, whispering resurrection into the silence.

And so, with Mary at the garden, with the disciples in their wondering, and with all your people across time and space, we join in the song of resurrection:

¡Santo, Santo, Santo!

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Words of Remembrance

On the night before his death, Jesus gathered with his friends in a world not so different from ours, filled with uncertainty and longing.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

And after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it, saying: “This cup is the new covenant, poured out in love for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

And now, on this Easter day, we remember not only the breaking, but the rising. As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; arr. by Charles H. Webb

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come a - gain.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

God of resurrection, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, and upon us, your people. Make this bread be for us the body of Christ, and this cup the presence of Christ's love. And make us, renewed by this feast, the body of Christ in the world, as people of resurrection, people of hope, people who carry your love into places of sorrow, your light into places of darkness, your life into places that long for new beginnings.

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; arr. by Charles H. Webb

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Friends, the table is ready. Come, not because you must, but because you may.

Come, not because you are certain, but because you are open.

Come, because Christ is risen,
Christ is risen indeed! and He meets us here.

Friends, the table is ready. Come, not because you must, but because you may.

Come, not because you are certain, but because you are open.

Come, because Christ is risen,
Christ is risen indeed! and He meets us here.


Now, let us lift our voices to sing Crown Him with Many Crowns.

Sending Hymn:

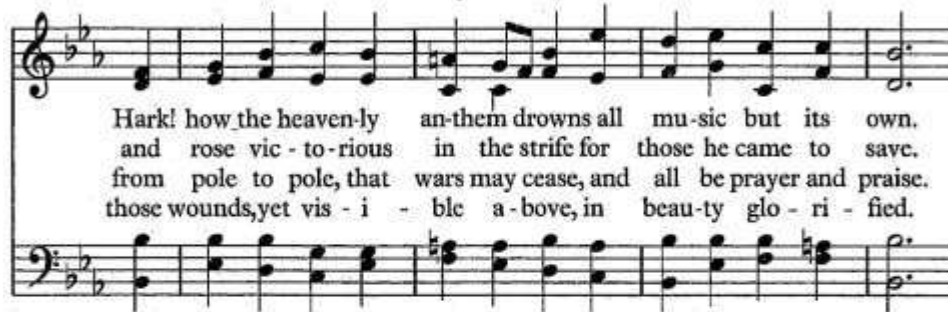
“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

UMH327

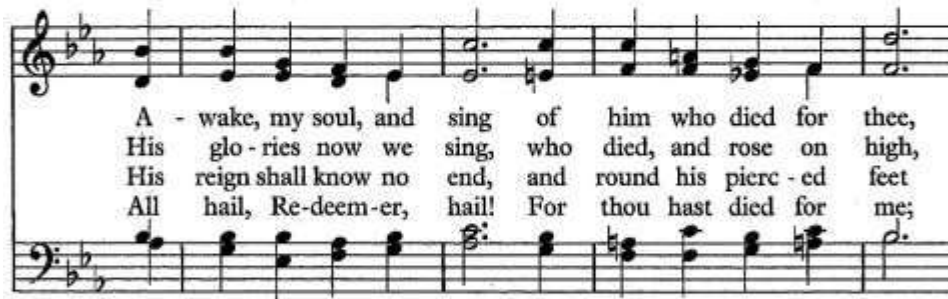
327 Crown Him with Many Crowns



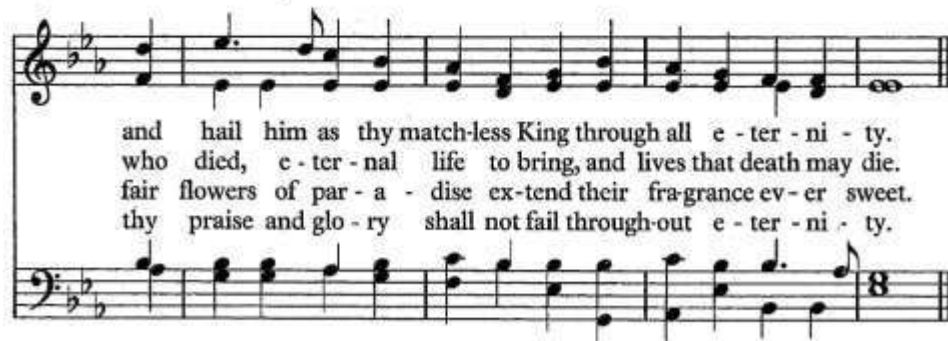
1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,



Hark! how the heav-en-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own,
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to savc.
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died, c - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12)
MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
SMD

RESURRECTION AND EXALTATION, *see further:*

636 Christian People, Raise Your Song 715, 716 Rejoice, the Lord Is King
177 He Is Lord

Spoken Benediction

Pastor James

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

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Irr.

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

Postlude:

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
by Stralsund Gesangbuch, arr. by Mark Hayes

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, **Rich Fluechtling**, **Phyllis Ramsey** and **Wayne Sinclair**, 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, **Megan and Jack Cassette**, 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 in celebration of this Easter morning.

--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:61 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 6

-- Facebook Live: 10

Sunday Offerings

Offering: \$642 On-Line: \$2,149

Permanence Fund: \$200 Cumulative: \$395,413

The Bloom Book Club 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. 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

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 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

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For more information 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 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 March 2	Tuesday Mar 3	Wednesday Mar 4	Thursday Mar 5	Friday Mar 6	Saturday Mar 7	Sunday March 8
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist 6:00pm Book Group on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors 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 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.

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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

