



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



July 2, 2023

Welcome

Bloom in the Desert Ministries (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 and the Reconciling Ministries Network (Methodist). Bloom is governed congregationally according to our unique bylaws. All Bloom members and friends are ministers in our faith. Our Open Leadership 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 10am

Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson, Minister — 760-992-4346

Ken Forney, Music Director — 608-445-6767

Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassitant@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



Annual Summer FUN Gathering for Bloomers and Friends.

Welcome Bloomers, friends, family, and guests to join us.

\$25.00/pp Donation Bingo FUNdraiser, with food and bar available additional on your own from the wonderful staff of Oscar's Downtown Restaurant and Bar. Please order from the menu.

Doors open at 5:30 for dinner and drinks. Bingo with Deven and Ned and from 7 to 8 pm.
Door prizes and live auction will add to the fun.

Please Make paid reservations at <https://bloominthedesert.breezechms.com/give/online>
Write "Hot August Night" in the notes box. Thank you for your support.



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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Bloom in the Desert
Ministries
United Church of Christ
Palm Springs, CA

Communion Sunday

* Independence Day Weekend *

July 2, 2023

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk

* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Gathering Song

Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our div - er - si - ty,
Gath-ered in the name of Je - sus, rich-er still in un - i - ty.
Let us bring the gifts that dif - er and in splen - did, var-ied ways,
Sing a new church in - to be - ing, one in faith and love and praise.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

Music for Centering

“America the Beautiful”

*** Call to Worship**

Linda Lang

Come now, at a time of national heritage and holy celebration, we worship the creator of all people and places.

Yes, in these special moments we will open our minds to the challenge of reason, open our hearts to the healing of love, open our lives to the calling of conscience, open our souls to the comfort of goodness and joy.

We gather around this common table as resurrection people to remember Jesus and be reconciled with God and each other. This simple action is a sacrament, which our faith heritage offers. We come here to renew our souls and rest in the presence of unconditional love. We gather for safe harbor among friends.

Now, in our sacred space, we offer and receive eternal care. We love each other recklessly. We learn hope. We welcome the renewing Spirit of God in Aloha. Shalom. Salaam. Vrede. Ping-an. Paz. Peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

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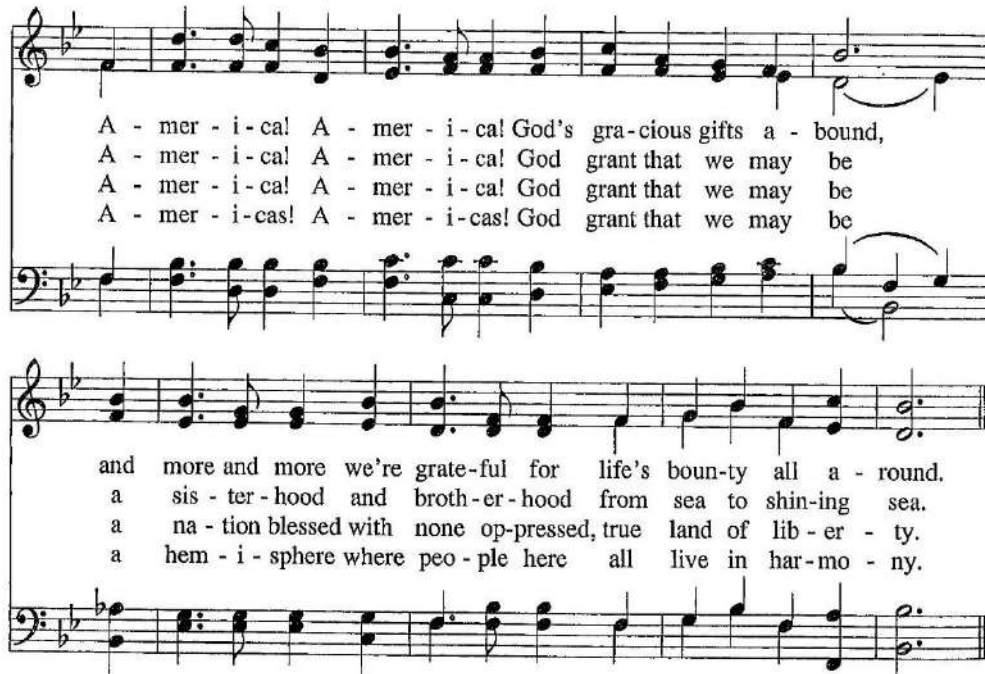
How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

Miriam Therese Winter, 1993; Adapted from "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;
2 In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea

our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.
O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.
the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.
that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.



On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1882

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us encounter God, aware of our history and power to do good:

God of justice, **Show yourself.**

Where the hungry go unfed while the privileged gorge themselves; where the poor go begging while the rich go deeper into debt; where tyrants bite the dust, but their successors prove no better;

God of justice, **Show yourself.**

Where the prisoner is not prepared for freedom and the refugee is not accorded dignity, where the disadvantaged are excluded and the disabled are left on the margins; where categories are grounds for suspicion or confer unmerited privilege;

God of justice, **Show yourself.**

To those who speak for the voiceless and defend the persecuted, to those who protest for a fairer world and practice simpler living, to those who share faith in places where faith is suspected;

God of justice, **Show yourself.**

And to us, as we live to serve and love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength;

God of justice, **Show yourself.**

God, receive our prayer and inspire us to be willing agents of your gracious purposes, as we touch people's lives,

Show yourself.

(John Bell, Iona Community, 2013 Peace Colloquy, adapted).

Our Silent Prayers (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect actively with God. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of all peace, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Gracious God energizes us with liberty and independence to love all and create a new world.

Thanks be to God. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the song 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the melody for 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' The second staff continues the melody with 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, -'. The third staff concludes the piece with 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.' The lyrics are printed below the notes.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 13

Mike Shear

How long, YHWH? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I wrestle with my anguish,
and wallow in despair all day long?

How long will my enemy win over me?

Look at me! Answer me, YHWH, my God!

Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed,"

lest my foes rejoice when I fall.

I trust in your love;

my heart rejoices

in the deliverance you bring.

I'll sing to you, YHWH,

for being so good to me.

~Inclusive Bible Version

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

Robert Van Dyke

"Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.

Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the rewards of the holy ones.

"The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward."

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Keep watch, dear God, with all who work, or watch, or weep this day. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

God, receive our prayer.”

Joys and Thanksgivings:

Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of all creation. Keep us always thankful for your loving providence and help us be faithful stewards of your good and abundant gifts.

“God, receive our prayer.”

Sung Response In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful

♩ = 69

In our God I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in our God I will re-joice. Look to God, do not be a-
fraid, lift up your voic - es, our God is near, lift up your voic - es our God is near.

Words by Community of Taizé, Music by Jacques Berthier, adapted

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

Our tithes and offerings are an expression of our hearts and our discipleship.

--Checks should be made out to “Bloom in the Desert Ministries.” Checks and cash in envelopes with identification are recorded for your year-end convenience. **Online giving is available and easy!** Go to: www.bloominthedesert.org and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music “Interlude No. 3”

Prayer of Dedication

Linda Lang

Creator God, here is a portion of the wealth we have received from your world. Accept it as a sign of our desire to invest all that we have and are in your service in and beyond the Church. Our hope and the hope of our world is in the work and vision we share with you.

Amen.

~Rev. Gregory R. Dell (1945-2016)

(Please rise, as you are able, in celebration as we sing the Doxology.)

* Doxology and Presentation of Offerings

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written on four staves in a 3/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be - low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

Reader Linda Lang: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:

“I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you’re my disciples: that you truly love one another.”

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and the streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo! (Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

The musical score is written in 6/8 time. The first system contains the first two lines of the song. The second system contains the next two lines. Chords are indicated above the notes: C, G7, C, F, C, F, G7, C.

¡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.

Reader Mike Shear: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God’s people. Remembering God’s power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying, **“This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me.”**

Reader Linda Lang: After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said, **“This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me.”**

Reader Mike Shear: Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God’s hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of grain and grape, that in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Communion Invitation

Rev. Dr. Kev

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. In this community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. For we believe that Christ is the host, Christ sets the table, and Christ welcomes all. Let us come, for God's table is ready.

Communion Music

“Live to Love”

(Ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion)

***Prayer of Jesus** (You may join hands)

**Beloved, our God,
revealed in the heavens,
let us honor your name
in all its holy splendor.**

**May your dominion
come in our lifetime.
May your purpose
be fulfilled on earth
as your will
governs the heavens.**

**Give us today
the bread we need,
and in your abundance
let us feed each other.**

**Forgive the harm
we have done,
as we forgive those
who have harmed us.**

**When temptation is near,
keep us faithful to you.
When evil surrounds us,
be our savior.**

**For authority, power and glory
belong to you, and you alone,
now and forever.**

Amen.

~Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, **The Hours of Prayer**, ©2020 by Andrew Lang

* Sending Hymn

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This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

Benediction and Blessing

As this worship gathering ends, our service begins. What does God need from us?

“Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.”

May God Bless you and protect you.

May God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God behold you with love and give you peace.

Amen.

Bless God, O my soul,

and all that is within in me,

bless God’s holy name.

~An updated Priestly Blessing

Amen.

My dear friends in faith, will you go into your worlds to be people of God in Christ’s name?

We will. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

“Come Thou Font”

A wheelchair and large-print bulletins are available for your convenience.

You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection.

or leave it with the ushers for recycling.

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

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

--The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality 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.

America the Beautiful, by Samuel Ward, arr. by Mark Hayes

Interlude #3, by Mark Hayes

Live to Love, by Paul Cardall

Come Thou Font by John Wyeth, arr. by James Koerts

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Malcolm Swan**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Linda Lang, Mike Shear** and **Robert Van Dyke** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you also to **Mike Shear** and **Linda Lang** for taking part in our Great Thanksgiving.

--Thank you to **Nick Wass** for handling the technical aspects for today's service. Thank you also to **Mike Kreiser** and **Jim Tietz** for serving as our ushers this morning.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by **Linda and Ron Lang**.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405-833-1817 for assistance.

Last Week's Participation

Sunday Service: --Souls Present at Demuth: 55 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 6
--Facebook Live Viewers: not available --Facebook Total Views: 103--YouTube Views: 16

Sunday Offering

--Previous Week's Support: Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$2,047 Electronic Giving: \$235

Permanence Fund: \$100 Cumulative: \$316,570

Strengthen the Church: \$2 Cumulative: \$124

Hot August Night Confirmed Reservations:18 Goal 75

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Ralphs #PG245.) as your designated charity to benefit from a small percentage of your purchase totals. Every little bit helps!

Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly online giving page or visit www.bloominthesdesert.org/donateparticipate.



Ministries of Leadership and Support

--Open Leadership Meetings are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be June 14 at 6:30pm PDT in the church office. All are welcome with voice. Bloom members have vote. Contact **Lynda Toland** to receive the Zoom Invitation.

--Congregation meetings are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is October 15 after church.

Church Growth and New Member Involvement Ministry

--If you are interested in making covenant as a member of Bloom or an associate member (for those who have a relationship with another church, please contact **John DiNapoli**, dinoins@gmail.com or **Bill Wallace** at adminassistant@bloominthesdesert.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 BibleBites** meets every first, third, and fourth Wednesdays (and when no Open Leadership meeting is held) at 6 pm PDT via Zoom. All are welcome. The group is currently reading I Timothy. If you wish to join the BibleBites discussion and reading notify Bill Wallace at adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org. You will be sent a link to this meeting prior to the date.

--**Bloom Book Club**- The group is taking a summer break and will resume on October 2. For more information, contact Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com.

Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**: Come serve lunch at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs on Mondays and Tuesdays, located at 1555 E. Alejo Rd, Palm Springs 10:30 am–1:00 pm PDT. On Wednesdays, lunch is served at St Paul’s Episcopal Church at 125 W El Alameda, Palm Springs 10:45 am-1 pm. Contact **Jon Miller** at jmiller.ps@icloud.com.

Our focused ministries include:

- School children’s benevolence – backpacks, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.
- Relieving food insecurity – Lunch Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 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.
- For peace action and social justice email alerts, sign up with **Jon Miller** at jmiller.ps@icloud.com.

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday July 3	Tuesday July 4	Wednesday July 5	Thursday July 6	Friday July 7	Saturday July 8	Sunday July 9
<p>10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist</p>	<p>Independence Day 10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist</p>	<p>10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal 6pm Bible Bites Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>Afternoon Volunteer opportunity assembling Sunday Bulletins</p>	<p>4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour</p>		<p>10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth, on Bloom’s website, and on Facebook Live</p>

