



**Bloom**  
in the  
**Desert**  
Ministries



July 16, 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 — [moderator@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson, Minister — 760-992-4346 — [minister@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:minister@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Ken Forney, Music Director — 608-445-6767 — [ken.forney@gmail.com](mailto:ken.forney@gmail.com)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassitant@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)**



## Annual Summer FUN Gathering for Bloomers and Friends.

**Welcome and Enjoy Bloomers, Friends, Family, and Guests to Join Us.**

Please help Bloom reach our 2023 goal of 75 reservations.

**10th Annual Hot August Night; 5:45PM Dinner, Drinks, and 7PM BINGO!**

\$25.00/pp Donation Bingo FUNdraiser, with food and bar available additional on your own from Oscar's Downtown Restaurant and Bar. Please order from the menu – \$20/pp minimum..

The wonderful staff will be happy to serve you.

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 "Comments" area and detail any guests you have.

**Thank you for your support.**



**Bloom  
in the  
Desert  
Ministries**



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

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 16, 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**

Ken Forney, piano

“Jesus Loves Me”

**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**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Ken Forney, piano

## \* Call to Worship

Ray Allen

We are gathered to be the heavenly welcome for all God's people joined in community and love.

### **Yes, we are the embodied welcome.**

Together as friends and neighbors, we embrace God and each other in a historic faith sustained with prayer, education, love, and grace.

**In this sacred realm, inspired by active devotion, we are encouraged as we share living faith and spiritual trust.**

**Aloha. Shalom. Salaam. Vrede. Myr. Ping-an. Paz. Peace. Amen.**

## \* Opening Hymn

### O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

*Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.*

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease  
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

*The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
Carl G. Gläser, 1828  
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839  
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome the spiritual embrace of God, which accompanies openness and reconciliation:

**Reconciling God; Proclaim peace to us once more. Bring us even closer to you and your love. Be our “great physician” this day, so we recognize your healing presence in our midst. Teach us to dispel any hostility within our minds and hearts. Help us be of a kind mind with our adversaries and at ease with both strangers and friends. We claim to be in your universal household. Help us make our lives into moments that honor you and your beloved. Transform our spoken words and thoughts into actions of prayer and thanksgiving, as people striving for unity and peace. Our community is infused with boundless love. Help us make for each other the promised peace that passes understanding. So, in covenant, we are knit as one.**

**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.)

Eternal love, wonderful counselor, sovereign of peace, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### Words of Encouragement

Receive these words of Jesus: “Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

**Amen. Let us now receive the Word.**

## Sung Response

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.  
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le,  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:105-112

Lynda Toland

Now I know your word is a lamp for my steps,  
for the path just ahead of me.

I resolve and swear  
to keep your ordinances of justice.

I have suffered much, YHWH—  
give me life as you have promised.

Please accept my heartfelt praises, YHWH,  
and teach me your decrees.

Though constantly I take my life in my hands,  
I never forgot your Law.

The corrupt laid their traps for me,  
but I haven't strayed from your precepts.

Your decrees are all the inheritance I'll ever want—  
they're the joy of my heart.

I set my heart to keep your statutes,  
forever and to the letter.

~Inclusive Bible Version

**\* Gospel Reading**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Mike Shear

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables:

“One day a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!”

“Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

~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



# Hymn of Response

173

## Tú has venido a la orilla (You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo  
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly  
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

Estribillo (Refrain)  
 D7  
 que - res que yo te si - ga. Je -  
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo. O  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;  
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES  
 8.10.10. with refrain  
 Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979  
 Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

Copyright © 1979, 1987, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP Publications.



son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;  
 kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;  
 On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar,  
 now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne - ce - si - tas mis ma - nos,  
 mi can - san - cio que a o - tros des - can - se,  
 a - mor que quie - ra se - guir a - man - do.  
*Estríbillo*

3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion,  
 work - ing love for the rest of the  
 wea - ry—  
 A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
*Refrain*

4. Tú, Pes - ca - dor de o - tros ma - res,  
 an - sia e - ter - na de al - mas que es - pe - ran.  
 A - mi - go buc - no, que a - sí me lla - mas.  
*Estríbillo*

4. You who have fished oth - er wa - ters;  
 you, the long - ing of souls that are  
 yearn - ing:  
 As lov - ing Friend, you have come  
 to call me.  
*Refrain*

## 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) and click on the Donate tab. Thank you.



## Offertory-Meditation Music

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Ken Forney, piano

## Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Lynda Toland

Holy Spirit, you have given us life and love and each other. In response, we offer you our money, our time, and ourselves in order to spread that life and love. Put us to work and to love where you will, with those near or far. In the name of Christ, receive our offering. Amen.

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

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

### \* Doxology

#### Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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!

### \*Prayer of Jesus (Please join hands)

Beloved, our God,

Creator of all:  
your name be held holy,  
your domain increase among us,  
your wisdom be our guide,  
your way be our path,  
your will be done well,  
at all times, in all places,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us the bread we need today,  
the manna of your promise,  
the taste of your tomorrow.

As we release those indebted to us,  
so forgive us our debts.

Fill us with courage  
in the time of our testing.

Spare us from trials  
too severe to endure.

Free us from the grip  
of all powers that bind.  
For yours is the good  
in which evil dissolves;  
yours is the joy  
that sounds through the pain;  
yours is the life  
which swallows up death.

Yours is the glory,  
the transfiguring light,  
the victory of love,  
for time and eternity,  
for age after age.

Amen.

Paraphrase of the Lord's prayer by Jim Cotter, alt.  
*Out of the Silence...Prayer's Daily Round*, 2006 by  
Jim Cotter

\* Sending Hymn

576

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

*Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.*

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680  
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Words Copyright © 1968 by Hope Publishing Company

## 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.”**

God of wonders, abounding in love, our only God: your saving hand and holy arm bring justice and hope.

Therefore, this and every morning we sing a new song to you.

Joining with the shouting earth and the roaring sea, the clapping rivers, and the joyful hills,

let praise fill our homes and our hearts, now and forever ~ A. Lang, based on Psalm 96

**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

“Higher Ground”

Ken Forney, piano

<b>Bloom Happenings this Week</b>						
Monday July 17	Tuesday July 18	Wednesday July 19	Thursday July 20	Friday July 21	Saturday July 22	Sunday July 23
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	<b>Afternoon</b> Volunteer Opportunity Assemble bulletins in the office	<b>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		<b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

# Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Ray Allen, Lynda Toland, and Mike Shear** for serving as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **Nick Wass** and **Jackson Enzler** for handling the technical aspects for today's service. Thank you also to **Mike Kreiser** and **Jim Teitz** 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 **Ray Allen** in gratitude for his birthday.

--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: 49 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1  
--- Facebook Live Views: 16-Facebook Total Views: 63 -- YouTube Views: 8

## Sunday Offering

--**Previous Week's Support:** Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:  
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$4,792 Electronic Giving: \$3,667  
Permanence Fund: \$749.27 Cumulative: \$321,124

Hot August Night Confirmed Reservations: 30 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.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate](http://www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate).**



--**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.

**Jesus Loves Me**, music William Bradbury and Claude Debussy, arr. by Fred Bock

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**, music by Paul Baloche, arr. by Jeff Bennett, ©2005 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

**Fairest Lord Jesus**, Music Crusaders' Hymn, arr. by Heather Sorenson © 2012 Hal Leonard

**Higher Ground**, Music by Charles H. Gabriel, arr. by Mark Hayes, ©1983 Glorysound

## Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be July 12 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 a covenant as a member or associate member** with Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC, please contact **John DiNapoli**, [dinojnps@gmail.com](mailto:dinojnps@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

--**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](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org). You will be sent a link to this meeting prior to the date.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. The group will be taking a summer break and resume on October 2.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jmiller.ps@icloud.com).

**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.