



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



August 13, 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

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson, Minister — 760-992-4346 — minister@bloominthedesert.org

Ken Forney, Music Director — 608-445-6767 — ken.forney@gmail.com

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



Spare Change Jar and Hospitality Basket

Perhaps you've wondered about these two items on the hospitality table nestled among the food items after morning worship. They have two purposes and are both opportunities for your support.

The Spare Change Jar helps fund two Social Action and Missions projects. First, the back-to-school backpacks with school supplies we deliver to area elementary schools in August. Second, the Christmastime \$100 gift cards we distribute to local schools' administrative staff to give to students' families who are struggling. Don't carry change or dollars? You can also give online to the spare change jar via the Bloom homepage Donate tab.

The Hospitality Basket helps pay for the sundry expenses of plates, cups, cutlery and coffee we use during hospitality hour. Your donations of physical goods are also welcome.



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

**11th Sunday after Epiphany
August 13, 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Hymns, Part 12” arr. by Wayne Yankie

10:00am Gathering Song

Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our div - er - si - ty,
Ga-thered 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

“Any Dream Will Do” m Dr. Denis Moreen, piano
from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” by Andrew Lloyd Webber

*** Call to Worship**

Jim Nixon

The Spirit weaves us together, even the broken threads of our lives can be trimmed and melded.

We bring now our gifts; we bring now ourselves, for compassion and justice are woven here.

Let the Spirit weave us together as servants of peace with humility...

As we worship in unity and love.

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

*** Opening Hymn**

295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.

Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . faith-ful their whole lives
2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them
3 They lived not on-ly in a-ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they
strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their
still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and an-
whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and an-
do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth - er a shep-herd in pas - tures green: they were saints of God, if you
 oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea - son,
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean, God, help me to be one, too.
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

This text was included in Lesbia Scott's Everyday Hymns for Little Children with her original words, music, and illustrations. A native of Britain, Scott was also the author of six published plays and enjoyed painting until her death in 1986.

Tune: GRAND ISLE Irr.
 John H. Hopkins, 1940

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

God of unity and peace, strengthen the ties that make us your community. Give us grace to recognize good intentions and meaning in this body. Dwell in our hearts, so we serve in humility – braided with strength and gentleness, intertwined with passion. Nourish us with love, so we grow in our knowledge of you through relationships. God of unity and diversity, place within all of us your Spirit of hope. When we speak without love or act without humility, help us know and change. Create in us hearts of patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children and adults who grow in faith and wisdom. Advise and strengthen this church, so we are a model of love and ministry for all to see. In relationship with Jesus and one another, and for good purpose, we pray. Amen.

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, wonderful counselor, sovereign of peace, receive now our sincere and silent prayers. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our Breath gives us the opportunity to be the love we seek.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Created by God, we are marked with the seal of compassion. Called by Christ, we are invited to live in love.

Amen. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a fermata and a '4' above it, indicating a four-measure rest. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second staff continues: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, —. The third staff concludes: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Mike Shear

Then Jacob took up residence in the place where Isaac had settled, the land of Canaan.

These are the generations of Joseph.

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he used to accompany his siblings, the children of Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob’s spouses, as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattler on the others to Jacob while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light.

Now, Israel doted on the youth, because he was a child of his old age; he loved Joseph more than the others. And Israel gave Joseph a richly ornamented robe.

When the brothers saw that Israel loved him best, they were jealous and had nothing but contempt for the boy. The brothers had gone to tend the herds at Shechem. Israel said to Joseph, “Your brothers are tending to the herds at Shechem. I will send you to them.”

Joseph replied, "I am ready."

Israel told Joseph to see if things were going well and to report back to him. So, Joseph set off from the valley of Hebron. When he arrived at Shechem and was wandering in the field in search for the herds, someone asked, "What are you looking for?"

Joseph answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are tending sheep?"

The person said, "They have moved on. I heard them say they were going to Dothan." So, Joseph left that place and caught up with the herd at Dothan.

They saw Joseph approaching in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to murder the lad. They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. Now's our chance! Let's kill Joseph and throw his body in one of these pits. We'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we'll see what becomes of Joseph's dreams!"

Reuben intervened and saved the boy from their hands, saying, "No bloodshed! Throwing him into a pit in the wilderness is one thing, but let's not lay a hand on him." Reuben's intention was to rescue Joseph and return him to Israel.

So, when Joseph came upon his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamental robe he wore, and picked him up and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty, and there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat. As they were eating, they noticed an Ishmaelite caravan coming from Gilead, with loads of gum, balm, and resin, on its way down to Egypt. Judah said to the others, "What is to be gained by murdering Joseph and concealing his death? Why not sell Joseph to these Ishmaelites? He is, after all, our flesh and blood, and in that way his blood will not be on our hands." The others agreed.

Meanwhile, some Midianite traders passed by, and pulled Joseph out of the pit. They sold him for eight ounces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph with them into Egypt.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 14:22-27

Phyllis Ramsey

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear, they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me! Don't be afraid!"

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of Response

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

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.

The musical notation is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves. The first staff has a tempo marking of ♩ = 69. The lyrics are written below the notes. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the first staff.

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

"Close Every Door"

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Phyllis Ramsey

O God, this isn't very much. It's only a small part of what we earn and spend. But receive it as a symbol. Let it be a sign between you and us that we want to find and create the life and love that you offer. We are ready to be your people. 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 bles-sings flow, praise God, all crea-tures 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 musical notation is in 3/8 time with a key signature of three flats (Bbb). It consists of four staves. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Rev. Kev

Our Father/Mother God, who is at the very center of Being,
may your presence be held in awe.
May your government arrive in fullness,
may your will be claimed by all, now and in all time.
Give us today, that which we need,
and heal us from the brokenness we experience and create,
as we would heal with you others broken in their beings and actions.
And let us not be seduced by that which is false,
but deliver us from that which misleads.
For yours is the authority and the power and the victory forever.
Amen.

*** Sending Hymn**

377

Forward through the Ages

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Kev

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.”

Siblings in faith, God sends us now into the world.

Into service, into struggle, into celebration — we go with God, go go with one another. 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

“Go Go Go Joseph”

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday August 14	Tuesday August 15	Wednesday August 16	Thursday August 17	Friday August 18	Saturday August 19	Sunday August 20
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	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal 6pm BibleBites Bible Study on Zoom	Afternoon Volunteers Needed Assemble bulletins in the office	4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Jim Nixon, Mike Shear and Phyllis Ramsey**, 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 our ushers for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by **Mary Sturm** in memory of her husband Don's 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: 54 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2
--- Facebook Live Views: 19 -Facebook Total Views: 80 -- YouTube Views: 17

Sunday Offering

--**Previous Week's Support:** Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$6,000 Electronic Giving: \$2,750
Permanence Fund: \$534 Cumulative: \$321,287

--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.



--**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.

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The Piano Treasury of Hymns, arr. by Wayne Yankie, ©2006 Shawnee Press.

Selections from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, by Andrew Lloyd Webber. ©1969 The Really Useful Group Ltd.

Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be September 11 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 or **Bill Wallace** at adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org.

--**For more information on the United Church of Christ**, visit www.ucc.org.

--**Persons seeking Christian Baptism** please call **760-327-3802** for pastoral response.

Nurture and Community Life Ministry

--**We Care**: If you know of someone in the hospital, or who might enjoy a pastoral call, including yourself, please call the **church office** at **760 327-3802** and leave a message.

Education Ministry

--**Bloom 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 Song of Songs (Soloman). 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.

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.

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.