



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



August 20, 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto: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

103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

August 20, 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

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

**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**

“Sing Hallelujah”

Ken Forney, piano

## **\* Call to Worship**

Lynda Toland

God created us, women and men, in God's image.

Women and men are equal co-workers with God in creating, sculpting and honoring each other.

Today we celebrate 103 years of victory since women were finally granted the right to vote.

This legislation was introduced into Congress in 1878, but was not passed until August 18, 1920 being certified on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever.

The 19th Amendment guarantees all American women this right today. Although for our black and brown sisters, that right did not come true until 1965.

Militant suffragists used tactics such as parades, silent vigils and hunger strikes often meeting fierce resistance to obtain this goal.

Jesus empowers women and men with new life. Today we celebrate this new life for all women in America, and we specifically thank God for our sister suffragist leaders: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Emmeline Pankhurst and Frances Willard to name a few.

The Spirit is made manifest in us by the encouragement, strength, and empowerment we share as we continue the work of social justice in the Realm of God and as we recognize these and all leaders of this movement to give the equal right of voting to all women in these United States of America.

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

\* Opening Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
 and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

*Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.*

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Dutch melody  
 Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906  
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

# In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

## Prayer for Good and Growth

Most gracious and loving God, we come before you today to offer our gratitude for your grace and sustaining love, which never deserts us, though we too often forget that you always “have our backs.”

Today, we celebrate the gift of your ongoing tender mercies as we remember the valiant fight and struggle our sisters endured so we might share the gifts and talents you bestow upon your daughters, also created in your image, including “The Christa,” who is the feminine image of our brother Christ.

As we offer you honor and praise, we thank you for empowering us to continue the work of bringing the world into all you have really designed it to be!

We thank our sisters—all our sisters and the brothers who have assisted us along the way—in this ongoing journey. May we be infused with new energy and strength to enrich and guide the world as you have called upon each of us to richly represent you in all your glory!

**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.)

We now offer you the silent prayers of our hearts and minds.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

## Words of Encouragement

“Any great change must expect opposition, because it shakes the very foundation of privilege.”

Lucretia Mott

**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

Genesis 45:1-158

Mike Shear

Then Joseph was no longer able to hold back his feelings in front of his attendants, and he cried out to them, “Leave me!” So no one was present when Joseph made himself known to his brothers—but he wept so loudly that all of his Egyptian attendants heard him, and the news of it reached the Pharaoh’s palace. Joseph said to his brothers, “It is I —Joseph! Is my father really still alive?” The brothers could not answer, so dumbfounded were they.

Then Joseph said to the brothers, “Come closer to me.” When they had come closer, he said to them, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt! Please don’t rebuke yourselves for having sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you so that I could save your lives. There has been famine in the land for two years, and for the next five years there will be no tilling and no harvesting. But God sent me ahead of you to guarantee that you will have descendants on earth and to keep you alive as a great body of survivors.

“So it was not you who sent me here, but God! God has made me Pharaoh’s chief counselor, the head of the household and governor of all Egypt. Hurry back to our father and give him this message from Joseph: ‘God has made me governor of all Egypt. Come to me here at once! Do not delay. You will live here near me in the territory of Goshen, you your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, and herds, and all your possessions. I will provide for you here—for the next five years will be years of famine—so that you and your children and all that you own will be spared from destitution.’

“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is I who speak to you. Report to our father about how I am honored here in Egypt, and about everything you have seen. Go quickly, now, and bring my father to me!” Joseph threw his arms around Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him and wept too. Then he kissed his other brothers, weeping over them as well, and then he and his brothers talked.

~Inclusive Bible Version

## \* Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Ray Allen

Jesus left there and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, “Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed.”

Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, “Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us.”

Finally, Jesus turned to the woman and said, “My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”

She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, “Help me, Rabbi!”

He answered, “But is it right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs?”

“True, Rabbi,” she replied, but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.”

Jesus then said in reply, “Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass.” At that very moment her daughter was healed. ~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**

## Help Us Accept Each Other

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*Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.*

*John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er<br/>as Christ ac-cept-ed us;<br/>teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,<br/>each per-son to em-brace.<br/>Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,<br/>and bring us to be-lieve<br/>we are our-selves ac-cept-ed<br/>and meant to love and live.</p> <p>2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,<br/>as in our dai-ly life<br/>we strug-gle to be hu-man<br/>and search for hope and faith.<br/>Teach us to care for peo-ple,<br/>for all, not just for some,<br/>to love them as we find them,<br/>or as they may be-come.</p> | <p>3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,<br/>so that we may be moved<br/>in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions<br/>to do the truth in love;<br/>To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,<br/>un-til we know by heart<br/>the ta-ble of for-give-ness<br/>and laugh-ter’s heal-ing art.</p> <p>4 God, for to-day’s en-coun-ters<br/>with all who are in need,<br/>who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,<br/>for righ-teous-ness and bread,<br/>Bring us new eyes for see-ing,<br/>new hands for hold-ing on;<br/>re-new us with your Spir-it;<br/>God! Free us, make us one!</p> |
|---|--|

*Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.*

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.  
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Words Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

## 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 treble clef and a 3-measure rest at the end. The second staff has a treble clef and a double bar line at the end. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

"Praise His Greatness"

Ken Forney, piano

## Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Phyllis Ramsey

Loving God, we bring these gifts to help those who feel excluded. We dedicate this offering to your creation and to all of your people, regardless of income, education, gender, race, sexual orientation, age or physical ability. We ask you to accept these gifts in the name and spirit of the Christ who welcomes all. 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 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (Bbb). It consists of four staves. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Rev. Kev

Our Lady who is the Essence of the Earth,  
we have called you by many names.

Return now unto Your People, Speak Your Will,  
and it shall be done  
as Above, so Below.

Please give us each moment: our life, light and love.

If we have let you down,  
please forgive us and cleanse us,  
according to our own willingness to forgive others.

Lead us away from Lures  
and deliver us from Evil.

For you are Goddess, Queen of the Universe.

Yours is the Power, the Grace, the Wisdom, and the Beauty,  
Age unto Ages.

Amen. ~Marlyse Wiebenga

**\* Sending Hymn**

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**Great Is Your Faithfulness**

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*Refrain*

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

*This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.*

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10, with refrain  
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

## 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.”**

May the presence of God the Creator give us strength.

**May the presence of God the Redeemer give us peace.**

May the presence of God the Sustainer give us comfort.

**May the presence of God the Sanctifier give us love. 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

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Ken Forney, piano

<b>Bloom Happenings this Week</b>						
Monday August 21	Tuesday August 22	Wednesday August 23	Thursday August 24	Friday August 25	Saturday August 26	Sunday August 27
<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> Volunteers Needed 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 our music director, Ken Forney, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to Lynda Toland, Mike Shear and Ray Allen, 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, Jim Teitz and John DiNapoli, for welcoming us this morning.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by Carol Moore in memory of Leon Moore on what would have been their 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

--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: 40 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0  
--- Facebook Live Views: 16 -Facebook Total Views: 72 -- YouTube Views: 15

## Sunday Offering

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

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,922 Electronic Giving: \$1,622

Permanence Fund: \$140 Cumulative: \$321,308

Maui Fire Relief: \$103 Cumulative \$103

--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.

**Brethren, We Have Met to Worship**, from Columbia Harmony, arr. Heather Sorenson, ©2012 Hal Leonard Corp.

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**, Traditional Spiritual. ©1988 GlorySound

**Praise His Greatness**, music by Rowland Prichard, ©1988 GlorySound

**Sing Hallelujah**, music by Linda Stassen, ©1984 Linda Stassen, New Song Ministries

## 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](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 Song of Songs (Soloman). 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 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](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.