



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



August 27, 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

Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the “I Have a Dream” Speech
August 28, 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
August 27, 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

Mike Welden, piano

“La Pastorale,” “Matters of the Heart,” “It is Well With My Soul,” “Sacred Road”

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

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Mike Welden, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

We are called to walk a faithful road and to choose ways of God's justice.

I refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood, and sisterhood are not possible.

~MLK, adapted

Come together, then, as God's people. Follow Jesus Christ and listen for the loving direction of God. Rise up in body and spirit for justice and compassion.

I believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up.

~MLK, adapted

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

Words for peace in various languages: Hawaiian, Hebrew, Arabic, South African, Ukrainian and Russian, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese, English.

*** Opening Hymn**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

In our gathering today, we honor those who created the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom 60 years ago in 1963. As the struggle continues, we celebrate gains and embrace responsibility for what is yet to be achieved.

Gracious God, you create us and love us. You created us to live together in a community. We thank you for human and civil rights proponents, and all your children filled with divine vision for justice and compassion in our lives. We are thankful for leaders who worked, and continue working, to bring your endowment of unalienable rights into being. Fill us with your Spirit of freedom and truth. Guide us to live by your dream, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, privilege is mutual, and all your people know wholeness and well-being. In the power and memory of Christ Jesus, 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.)

Precious Guide, take our hands, lead us on through the storm,
through the night lead us on to the light. Receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

“God’s love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God’s love never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8a, adapted)

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 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 provides a bass line for 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

“If it had not been YHWH who was on our side” —

let Israel now say —

“If it had not been YHWH who was on our side,

when enemies attacked us,

they’d have swallowed us alive!

When their anger burned against us,

Psalm 124

Paul Gibb

the flood would have swept us away,
the water would have drowned us,
the raging torrent would have engulfed us!”

Blessed be YHWH,
who has not let us fall prey to their teeth!

We are free like a bird from the trap!
The snare has been broken and we are free!

Our help is in the name of YHWH,
who made heaven and earth.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 16:13-20

Rich Fluechtling

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is? They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

“You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the firstborn of the Living God!”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. I also tell you this: your name is now ‘Rock’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

“Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth, will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary “I Have a Dream” by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Bloom Readers
Linda Lang, Mike Shear, Carol Moore, Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, Rich Fluechtling,
Gil Gerald (Brothers of the Desert), Lynda Toland, Ray Stimson



* Hymn of Response

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
 2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
 3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
 4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
 hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
 fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
 through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
 we'll go hand in hand some day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 our God will see us through some day.

- 5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.
 6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "No more auction block for me" based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn "I'll Be All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley's gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.
 United States traditional
 Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981

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 “We Shall Overcome”

Mike Welden, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

We commit ourselves to God. Sometimes by giving and doing for others, sometimes by challenging injustice or opening new possibilities, sometime by being patient while God prepares us for future events, always by having confidence in God's love for all creation. Let us be faithful and watch for the unfolding of God's purpose in our lives and in the world. 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

The image shows a musical score for a doxology. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be -". The second staff continues: "low. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our". The third staff continues: "gifts! Praise Je-sus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly". The fourth staff concludes: "Spir-it! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!". The music ends with a double bar line.

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

Rev. Kev

Our Parent in the Universe, hallowed be your name.

May your government come, may your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and heal us of our brokenness, as we work to heal those broken around us.

Protect us from temptation and deliver us from harm.

For yours is the government and the power and the victory forever.

Amen.



60TH ANNIVERSARY

Martin Luther King

"I Have a Dream" speech

**"I have a dream
that one day this
nation will rise
up, live out the
true meaning of
its creed: 'We hold
these truths to
be self-evident,
that all men are
created equal.'"**

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



* Sending Hymn

593

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
 J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

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

“On Our Way Home”

Mike Welden, piano

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday August 28	Tuesday August 29	Wednesday August 30	Thursday August 31	Friday Sept. 1	Saturday Sept. 2	Sunday Sept. 3
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	Afternoon Volunteers Requested Assemble bulletins in the office	4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:00 am Labor Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, Paul Gibb** and **Rich Fluechtling** for serving as readers for today's service. Also, **Linda Lang, Mike Shear, Carol Moore, Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, Rich Fluechtling, Gil Gerald (Brothers of the Desert), Lynda Toland** and **Ray Stimson** for reading the "I Have a Dream Speech."

--Thank you to **Nick Wass** and **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

Thank you also to our ushers, **Ray Stimson** and **Bob Patnode**, for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by **Bill Wallace** and **Larry Metcalf** in celebration of Bill's 75th 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: 24 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0
--- Facebook Live Views: 23 --Facebook Total Views: 106 -- YouTube Views: 17

Sunday Offering

--**Previous Week's Support:** Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,362 Electronic Giving: \$1,345
Permanence Fund: \$75 Cumulative: \$321,333
Maui Fire Relief: \$225 Cumulative \$605

--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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La Pastorale, Op. 100 No. 3 by Friedrich Burgmuller

Matters of the Heart, by Douglas Trowbridge. ©1985 by Birdwing Music

It is Well With My Soul, by Philip Bliss, arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co, Inc.

Sacred Road, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc

There Is a Balm in Gilead, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©2010 by Hal Leonard Corp.

We Shall Overcome, arr. by David Gale, ©2021 by Birnamwood Publications

On Our Way Home, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc

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.