



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



September 3, 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

Labor Day Sunday
September 3, 2023

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Gathering Song

1. En - ter, re-joice, and come in. Ent - er, re-joice, and come in.
2. God's love is ours to em - brace. God's love is ours to em - brace.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re-joice, and come in.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

Music for Centering

“Blowing in the Wind”

Malcolm Swan, piano

* Call to Worship

Lynda Toland

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

We are here because we trust God is Love, and we live in God's Love. We are here to proclaim faith and seek direction in our journeys.

Come together, then, as God's people. Follow Jesus Christ and listen for the loving actions of God. Rise up in body and spirit, in praise and thanksgiving!

We will make our lives an expression of God's loving kindness.

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

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

230

*Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 C.E.)
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.*

Exod. 15; Luke 24

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines.

Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters;
 All the win-ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly-ing
 Comes to glad Je-ru-sa-lem who with true af-fec-tion
 But to-day a-mid the twelve you still stand, be-stow-ing

Led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
 From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.
 Wel-comes in un-wear-ied strains Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion.
 Peace and joy which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we pray this Labor Sunday prayer. Together we say:

God of rough hands, as we honor workers this day, we do not forget those whose work is often overlooked: homemakers who watch over children and homes, persons forced out of jobs by corporate changes, ones denied employment due to age; millions working far from home and sending money to loved ones; others who must work illegally to survive; anyone who loses a job because employers prefer undocumented labor.

Christ of the aching back, you worked a trade, you walked dusty roads, you know hunger pangs and bitter thirst. Help our desires become passion for justice so we scrap economic policies that enable few to hoard the world's wealth, that value women as less than men and minorities as less than human, that fail to honor the labor that precedes capital.

Spirit of creative power heal all who labor to survive in painful conditions. Renew our senses of vocation. Help us discern your Presence, even in our lowliest tasks. Amen.

(Chalice Worship, adapted)

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

Loving creator, wonderful counselor, 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!

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

Exodus 3:7-12

Carl Toland

Then YHWH said, “I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their suffering. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey— the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, Go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

God answered, “I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain.

~Inclusive Bible Version

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

Mike Shear

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You’re setting your mind not on the things of God, but of mortals.”

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps.

“If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self?”

“The Promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promises One’s reign.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Mily Treviño-Sauceda

Mily Trevino-Sauceda is the Executive Director and Co-founder of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas (National Association of Farmworker Women). She co-founded “Mujeres Mexicanas” in 1988, the pioneer campesinas group that led to building the Power of the Collective and created the idea of a campesinas movement; and also cofounded Lideres Campesinas in 1992, the first state-based farmworker women’s unique grass roots organization advocating on behalf of campesinas where she served as Executive Director for over 12 years. Mily has worked for over 40 years on farmworker issues as she joined as a member and organizer of the UFW; and then on farmworker issues in the state of California, nationally, and internationally.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

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

God, receive our prayer.”

Joys and Thanksgivings:

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

“God, receive our prayer.”

Sung Response In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful

♩ = 69

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

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

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

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

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



Offertory-Meditation Music “Interlude No. 1” by Mark Hayes Malcolm Swan, piano

Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Linda Lang

These gifts, God, we dedicate to you and your work. This is not all we offer. We also commit our time and all of who we are to your Spirit. Accept these gifts as an offering of, and for your family. 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 musical score is written on four staves in a 3/2 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be - low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

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

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

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

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the song, and the second system contains the next two lines. Each line has a vocal line and a bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal lines. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

Chord symbols: C, G7, C, F, C, F, C, Am, F, G7, C

Lyrics (Spanish): ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

Lyrics (English): cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

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

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

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

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of grain and grape, that in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no

longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Communion Invitation

Rev. Kev

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

Communion Music

"As the Deer"

Malcolm Swan, piano

(Ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion)

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

Rev. Kev

**God in all,
all in God,
we praise, we honor, we entreat.**

**Everything is here,
nothing is here.**

**Nourish us, enrich us,
not just in body but also in heart and soul,
in that deep interior where lies our utmost inmost self.**

When we err – as ever, it seems we will err – grant us the gift of forgiveness.

**When others transgress against us -as always, it seems, others will transgress against us -
grant us the gift of forgiveness.**

**Let not the way be tangled with temptation,
let us not fall prey to the brambles and thorns of life's deceptions,
but guide us to that which is honest and just and true.**

**For yours is the richness and the beneficence and the wish and the promise,
forever,
evermore.**

Amen.

~Gary Foster

* Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

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.”

We have been received, we have been nourished and challenged, now we are sent.

We are sent to be an Easter people long after many people have put the day behind them.

Go as witnesses to the resurrection.

We go to declare and give witness that no death will have the last word.

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

“Moment by Moment”

Malcolm Swan, piano

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday Sept. 4	Tuesday Sept. 5	Wednesday Sept. 6	Thursday Sept. 7	Friday Sept. 8	Saturday Sept. 9	Sunday Sept. 10
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. **ADDITIONAL READERS LISTED HERE, TOO**

--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: \$3,922 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.



--**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.