



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



September 10, 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

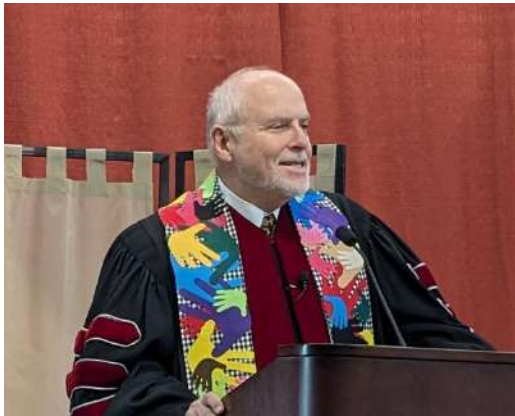
760-327-3802 — www.bloominthedesert.org — info@bloominthedesert.org

Save the Date and Time, September 24, 2023, 10am

Service of Endings and Beginnings

This is the last Sunday Morning with
Rev. Dr. Kev and Mike Shear
Called Minister and Cofounders

As our minister Retires after 21 years leading Bloom in the Desert Ministries and 50 years of
pastoral service: Boy Scout Summer Camp Staff Chaplain, Seminarian, Pastor, Business
Entrepreneur, and Cofounding new-church-start pastor.



We bless Kevin and Mike
and bid them much love and encouragement in their many years ahead.



**Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries**

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
a just world for all

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

after Pentecost

September 10, 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.

During today's service, in honor of Rev. Dr. Kev's birthday, Dr. Moreen will play works composed in 1953. Celebrate!

9:50am Pre-Service Music

"Kismet Music"

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

by Alexander Borodin (from the 1953 Broadway musical "Kismet")

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

"Behold, O God Our Defender"

by Herbert Howells (from the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II)

*** Call to Worship**

Wayne Sinclair

Let us praise God!

For the greatness of creation and all we are given.

Let us thank Jesus.

For teaching us how to love, to share and to work for justice.

Let us feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

For guidance in every decision and action in our daily lives.

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

593

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a- lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

1.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?

I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will speak my word to them.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.

2.

Refrain (Harmony)

Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8)
MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 D with Refrain

© 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the
 night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we acknowledge God's generosity and how we are to respond. Together we pray:

Gracious God, giver of all we have and hold as stewards; grant the people of this church a deep and abiding awareness that all things come from you – our health, our incomes, our jobs, our talents, and our generous impulse.

Send your Holy Spirit to help us as we swim against the rising tides of materialism, envy, individualism, and greed in our culture.

When we are tempted to think of money as a private matter, remind us you asked for part of what we are given, to be returned to you as a symbol of our awareness that you give all we say we own.

And further, help us help each other in this grace of giving. For you are the lover of our souls and call us to nothing less than transformation in Jesus Christ. **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, Receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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 concludes with 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.' The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 71:7-12, 17-19

Alan Weaver

I have become a target for many,
but you are my firm refuge.

My mouth is filled with your praise,
full of your splendor all day long.

Don't throw me away now that I am old,
nor desert me now that my strength is
failing.

For my enemies are spying on me,
and those who are waiting for me to die
are hatching conspiracies.

They say, “God has forsaken you!
We will pursue you, then catch you —
for there is no one to rescue you.”

O God, don't be far from me!
My God, come quickly and help me!

You taught me when I was young,
and I am still proclaiming your marvels.

Now that I am old and gray,
O God, do not desert me;
let me live to tell the coming generation
about your strength and power.

Your justice, O God,
is higher than the heavens.
You have done great things;
who is comparable to you?

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 18:15-20

Phyllis Ramsey

“If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

“The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again, I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rabbi David Lazar

--**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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Kismet Music, by Alexander Borodin, ©1953 by Hal Leonard Corporation

Behold, O God Our Defender, by Herbert Howells, ©1953 by Novell & Company Limited

Orb and Sceptre, by William Walton, ©1953 by Oxford University Press

I Believe, by E. Drake, I. Graham, J. Shirl & A. Stillman, © 1953 by Hampshire House Publishing

* Hymn of Response

Help Us Accept Each Other

560

Unison

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life
 3. Let your ac - cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en-coun-ter with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em-brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep-tance, for righ-teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep-tance, un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept-ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give-ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974 (Jn. 15:12)
 MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

ACCEPTANCE
 76.76 D

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.

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 “Orb and Sceptre” by William Walton (From the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II)

Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Phyllis Ramsey

Receive us, O Spirit, as we give ourselves to you. Take our songs, our commitment, our prayers and our gifts. Let them, and us, be used to make your vision truly come “On Earth as it is in Heaven.”

~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 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!"

*Prayer of Jesus (Please join hands)

Rev. Kev

Our Creator and redeemer, we shout your holy name!

In our daily living we are aware of your holy presence, and we open our spirit to your will as we listen for your desire for us and for all of creation.

Supply this day what is needed to nourish us — mind, body, and spirit. Nurture and sustain us with your care.

Let us recognize the things that bind us, free us from what would keep us from being whole. For You are our source of strength and life.

Your love is the true power that manifests itself within us. It is eternal and continues to renew, from age to age for ever and ever.

Amen.

~People of Color Group, Broadway UCC, Chicago, IL

* Sending Hymn

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chan-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

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 gathered in this place today for praise and offering.

We scatter now in service and mission.

We will not let our celebration end here. As we server the world, speak the Word, act the Deed.

May God’s power enable us all.

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

“I Believe”

by E. Drake, I. Graham, J. Shirl and A. Stillman (from the 1953 recording by Frankie Laine)

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday Sept. 11	Tuesday Sept. 12	Wednesday Sept. 13	Thursday Sept. 14	Friday Sept. 15	Saturday Sept. 16	Sunday Sept. 17
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 Bloom Open Leadership Meeting in the office and on Zoom	Afternoon Volunteers Requested 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 **Mike Welden**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Wayne Sinclair, Alan Weaver and Phyllis Ramsey** for serving as readers for today's service.

--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, **Hector Bayardo 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 **Mike Shear and Kevin Johnson** in celebration of Kevin's 70th Birthday.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405-833-1817 for assistance.

Last 2 Week's Participation

August 27 Service: --Souls Present at Demuth: 49 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 4
--- Facebook Live Views: 15 --Facebook Total Views: 115 --YouTube Views: 32

September 3 Service: --Souls Present at Demuth: 43 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1
--- Facebook Live Views: 18 --Facebook Total Views: 68 --YouTube Views: 15

Sunday Offerings

--**August 27 Support:** Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$917 Electronic Giving: \$284

Permanence Fund: \$25 Cumulative: \$321,358

Maui Fire: \$121 Cumulative: \$726

--**September 3 Support:** Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,532 Electronic Giving: \$745

Permanence Fund: \$125 Cumulative: \$321,483

Maui Fire: \$0 Cumulative: \$726

--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.



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 Book Club**-. The group is reviewing possible books so we can start another book study soon.

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.



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.



Happy 70th Birthday Rev Kev!