



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



October 15, 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 10 am

Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org

On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951—663-5237 — rflangX25@gmail.com

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



Congregation Meeting
Today
following the Service
in person and on Zoom



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

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 ~Oct. 15

October 15, 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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Ken Forney, 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 Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

Music for Centering “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” Ken Forney, piano

* Call to Worship

Rod Rasch-Clausen

As God turns to us and hears us, we now watch and listen for God patiently.

We are empowered with love, we are supported by firm foundations, we have standing and credentials.

God puts new songs in our hearts, and desires for justice and peace.

Our hope is that many will see and believe, trusting in God for healing and reconciliation.

As we are together and as we are sent, we embody Aloha. Shalom. Salaam. Vrede. Myr. Ping-an. Paz. Peace. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

423

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 Hopa Publishing Company

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome God's spiritual embrace. Together we say:

Loving God, you are always within reach and reaching. Inspire our worship to reach higher than intellect and our love to go further than feelings.

You are the creator and sustainer of all. Sometimes we take you for granted.

Restore the joy of salvation. Renew the vitality of our relationships with you and each other. You are the Eternal Source of birth and rebirth. Reignite the light that draws us to honor creation.

Restore our joy of discipleship and generosity. Your new commandment is to love one another in an open community with mutual care. Help us stop wandering and war-making, while expecting others to make sacrifices and leave us alone.

Restore our good senses and forgive our mistakes. Reinforce in us the desire to BE your New Creation, welcoming all to the benefit of your New Covenant. In the identity of Jesus Christ we pray.

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.)

Eternal Source of love and creation, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on; time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone."

~Brian Wren

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

Cultural Reading

JR Rasch

Fall in Love

Nothing is more practical
in finding God, than falling in
Love in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
What seizes your imagination,
Will affect everything.
It will decide what
Will get you out of bed in the morning,
What you do with your evenings,
How you spend your weekends,
What you read, whom you know,
What breaks your heart, and
What amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

~Attributed to Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Spanish Roman Catholic Theologian

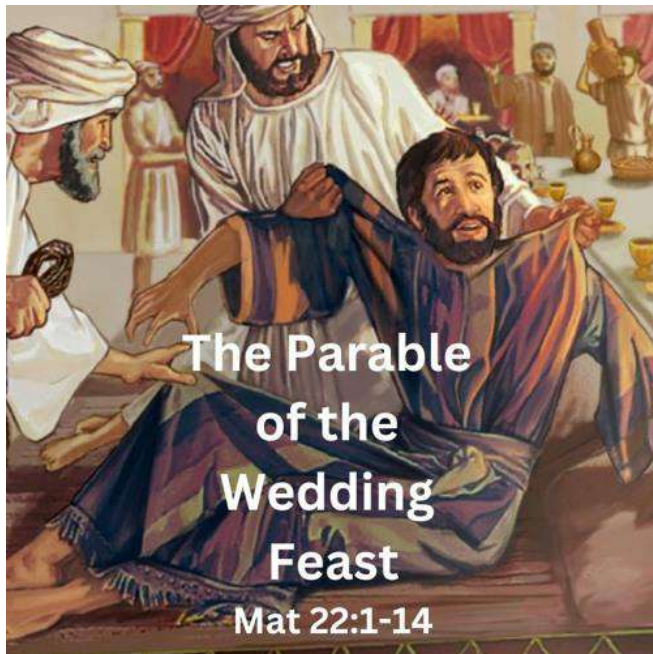


*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22:1-12

Mindy Harrington

Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, “The kin-dom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family’s heir; but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn’t come. The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, ‘I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.’ But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town.



“Then the ruler said to the workers, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don’t deserve the honor. Go into the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.’ The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests.

“The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. ‘My friend,’ said the ruler, ‘why are you here without a wedding garment?’ But the guest was silent. Then the ruler said to the attendants, ‘Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“Many are called but few are chosen.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Ray Stimson

Hymn of Response

173

Tú has venido a la orilla (You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Mat. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

*Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.*

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

Estribillo (Refrain)
D7
quie - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
re - des y mi tra - ba - jo. O
ask - ing for me to fol - low.
fish - nets and will for work - ing.

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
8.10.10. with refrain
Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

Copyright © 1979, 1987, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP Publications.

A7 D

son - ri - en - do, has - di - cho mi nom - bre;
 kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

D7 G F#m

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
 On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

B7 Em A7 D

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos,
 mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se,
 a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do.
Estrillo

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
 work-ing love for the rest of the
 wea-ry—
 A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain

4. Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res,
 an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran.
 A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas.
Estrillo

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
 you, the long-ing of souls that are
 yearn-ing;
 As lov-ing Friend, you have come
 to call me.
Refrain

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

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

“Joysong”

Ken Forney, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Mindy Harrington

Gracious God, you call us to be agents of Christ's way. We accept the commission as we confess faith in his will. What we now offer reflects our commitment. Accept our labors as befitting your righteousness. Enhance our endeavors by sending your Spirit. May our obedience be worthy of your continuing trust.

~James G Kirk, “When We Gather – A Book of Prayers for Worship”

(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)

Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

Our Father (Eternal Source / Mother / Creator / Parent) in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom (Kin-dom / realm / dream), come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses (sins/debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (sin against us/our debtors).

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For yours is the kingdom (Kin-dom / realm / dream), and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Based on Matthew 6:9-13 NRSV)

* Sending 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

Benediction and Blessing

Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

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 YHWH bless you and keep you!

May YHWH’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

May YHWH look kindly upon you and give you peace!

(The Priestly Blessing, Numbers 6:24-26)

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

“Firm Foundation”

Ken Forney, piano

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday October 16	Tuesday October 17	Wednesday October 18	Thursday October 19	Friday October 20	Saturday October 21	Sunday October 22
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 6pm Book Group on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	Afternoon Volunteers Requested Assemble bulletins in the office 6pm BibleBites on Zoom	4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour	8am – noon Bloom Yard Sale At the Cassettes’	10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to music director, **Ken Forney**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Rod Rasch-Clausen, JR Rasch,** and **Mindy Harrington** for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Lynda Toland** for serving as worship leader.

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

Thank you also to our ushers, Hector Bayardo and Randy Zeeze, for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by **Alan Weaver** in celebration of his mother's 100th birthday.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 37 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 4

--- Facebook Live Views: 23 -Facebook Total Views: 120 --YouTube Views: 14

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,286 Electronic Giving: \$3,407

Permanence Fund: \$434 Cumulative: \$322,144

Neighbors in Need: \$238 Cumulative: \$289

--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.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, tune Ein' Feste Burg, Martin Luther, arr. Heather Sorenson, ©2012 Hal Leonard Corp.

Firm Foundation, words and music by Nancy Gordon and Jamie Harvill, ©1994 by Integrity's Hosanna!

Joysong, music by Mark Hayes, ©1988 Glorysound.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee, arr. Maark Hayes, © 1998 Glorysound.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be November 8 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 February 16 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**, dinoinps@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

--**BibleBites**- will resume on Thursday, October 19 at 6pm on Zoom. Rev. Shelly Alexa Somerville, a Bloom member, will be facilitating the study of the **Gospel of John**.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. The group ((meets Tuesdays)) at 6pm on Zoom. We are reading “How to Begin When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything” by Rev Molly Baskett. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com.

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.