



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



October 29, 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



Thank you, Ken, and Vaya con Díos

“You Betcha,” we are going to miss Ken as he is retiring from Bloom. November 6 will be his last day.

Ken was responsible for having such a good-sounding Bloom Tones. He would rewrite music to accommodate the voices in the choir. He enthusiastically faced the chilly Easter sunrise services even though the arthritis in his hands was extremely painful while he played. Choir members have said they learned something new at every choir rehearsal.

Bloom will always be thankful for Ken’s generosity and unselfishness during Covid-19. Ken turned his home into a recording studio to be able to continue Bloom’s music program during the one and one half (guestimate) plus years Bloom was not meeting at Demuth. With Ken directing and accompanying Bloom’s Quartet: Phyllis Ramsey, Rod-Rasch Clausen, JR Rasch, and Brian Herman, beautiful music was provided for our Bloom online worship services.

Wishing Ken many blessings and thank you for your years of serving Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC.





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

All Saints Sunday

18th Anniversary as a United Church of Christ and an

Open & Affirming Congregation

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 2023

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center - Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk

* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Ken Forney, piano

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Ken Forney, piano

* Call to Worship

Paul Gibb

Having been welcomed into covenant with the United Church of Christ on October 25, 2005, today we celebrate 18 years of being a UCC congregation, as well as an Open and Affirming congregation.

Yes, we do. As individuals and a beloved community, we gather weekly to celebrate living in God's love eternally and our church's vision, mission and values daily.

We are people of extravagant welcome, dedicated to courageous compassion, agitating for justice, and making peace;

Yes, we are! Gathering for worship and friendship, renewal and healing, we remember our transitions and pledge to be ongoing reliable sources of Aloha. Shalom. Salaam. Vrede. Myr. Ping-an. Paz. Peace. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

Ours the Journey

Words by Julian B Rush,
adapted by Annie Britton and Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee

Music by Julian B Rush

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system ends with a final double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways,
Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions and de - spair,
Through the years of hu - man strug - gle, walk a peo - ple long de - spised:
We shine forth be - yond all gen - der, all per - sua - sions, old and young,
Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - der - ing their sep' - rate ways?
who will lift the ol - ive bran - ches who will light the flame of care?
neigh - bors of all or - ien - ta - tions, striv - ing to be e - qual - ized.
each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it, res - ur - rect our hearts a - gain.

God of rain-bow, fie - ry pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we, thy peo - ple,
 ours the jour - ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Litany

Jack and Megan Cassette

As we celebrate the history of our faith and denominational heritage, please join together in reading responsively the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology.

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
 God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
 and to your deeds we testify:

**You call the worlds into being,
 create persons in your own image,
 and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
 declared through prophets and apostles.**

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified
 and risen Savior,
 you have come to us
 and shared our common lot,
 conquering sin and death
 and reconciling the world to yourself.

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
 creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
 binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
 tongues, and races.**

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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.)

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.

Christ is alive! And goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings – our God is making all things news.

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

First Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 1

Rev. Douglas Holder

Happiness comes to those
who reject the path of violence,
who refuse to associate with criminals
or even to sit with people who belittle others.

Happiness comes to those
who delight in the Law of YHWH
and meditate on it day and night.

They're like trees planted by flowing water—
they bear fruit in every season,
and their leaves never wither:
everything they do will prosper.

But not wrongdoers!
They're like chaff that the wind blows away.

They won't have a taproot to anchor them
when judgement comes,
nor will corrupt individuals be given a place
at the Gathering of the Just.

YHWH watches over the steps
of those who do justice;
but those on a path of violence and injustice
will find themselves irretrievably lost.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Second Hebrew Scripture Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Carl Toland

YHWH told Moses to tell the entire Israelite community these things:

Be holy, for I, YHWH, am holy.

Each one of you must revere your mother and father. You must keep my Sabbaths, I am YHWH.
Do not turn to idols or cast metal images of gods for yourself. I am YHWH.

Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. Do not go about slandering others.

Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am YHWH. Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am YHWH.

~Inclusive Bible Version

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:32-40

Carol Moore

“At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

“The ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison, and you came to visit me. Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Erin Beardemphl

Rev. Erin Beardemphl is a mother, artist, visual liturgist, and ordained pastor with the United Church of Christ. She is often found writing camp curriculum or sermons for various churches around the area, as well as volunteering for her kids' school and her home church. She is so pleased to join Bloom this morning!

Prayer for All Saints Day

Carl Toland

Living God, we thank you for life and life eternal. We cherish our memories and the inspiration given by those who loved us fully, served you well, and now rest eternally. We bless you for their lives and love; and rejoice for their continued well-being. God of Jesus and all, teach us as 21st Century disciples to reflect such good examples to others according to our abilities.

Guide us to live the good values we inherit:

- ❖ **To feed the poor in body and spirit,**
- ❖ **To support and comfort the mourners and the recovering,**
- ❖ **To encourage the meek and stand with them in solidarity,**
- ❖ **To affirm and join those who work for justice,**
- ❖ **To cherish and learn from the merciful,**
- ❖ **To respect and stand with the peacemakers.**

Help us clearly recognize what it means to identify as children of God, and know we are called to live daily as your current saints-in-action. Amen

Hymn of Response

299

For All the Saints

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a
strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
were their one true light.
glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
faith - ful lives en - twine.
gain, and faith grows strong.

The musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into five systems, each corresponding to a line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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

“Interlude”

Ken Forney, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

This day we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. They have taught us of your love, O God. By their example we have learned what it means to commit ourselves to Christ, how the Spirit guides us daily, and to dedicate our lives to your glory and honor. May these offerings we bring symbolize that commitment and continue the heritage of the saints gone by.

~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 musical score is written on four staves in a 3/8 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!

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

Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker,
Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is
and that shall be,**

Father and Mother of us all.

**Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!**

**Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

~The New Zealand Prayer Book

* Sending Hymn

295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.

Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . faith-ful their whole lives
 2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them
 3 They lived not on-ly in a - ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they
 strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their
 still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and an-
 whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and an-
 do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green: they were saints of God, if you
 oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea-son,
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

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

“Joysong”

Ken Forney, piano

--**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, arr. Heather Sorenson, ©2012 Hal Leonard Corp.
Fairest Lord Jesus, Tune: Crusader’s Hymn, Arr Heatern Sorenson
Interlude, Music: Mark Hayes, © 1981 Harlod Flammer Music
Joyson, Music: Mark Hayes, ©1988 GlorySound
 --**All music** contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved.

Bloom Happenings this Week

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5
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		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live 10:00 am Palm Springs Pride Parade

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 **Paul Gibb, Rev. Douglas Holder, Carol Moore, and Carl Toland** 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, **Ray Allen** and **Randy Zeese**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Rich Fluechtling** in celebration of the All-Saints Day.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 50 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 0 -Facebook Total Views: 122 --YouTube Views: 0

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,394 Electronic Giving: \$855

Permanence Fund: \$124 Cumulative: \$321,084

--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 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**- Thursdays, 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.