



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



October 8, 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



Behold!

*"God saw everything God made
and behold, it was very good."*

Genesis 1:31

Artist: Alexis
Age: 15
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

Congregation Meeting
Next Sunday,
October 15, 2023
Following the Service



**Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries**



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

Stewardship of Time Talents and Treasure
Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 ~Oct. 15
October 8, 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

“Hymns, Part 13”
arr. Wayne Yankie (2006)

Dr. Denis Moreen, 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

“Träumerei”
by Robert Schumann (1838)

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Ray Allen

Be aware of God's presence as we are gathered together...

in this very room, and wherever we are.

Peace and goodwill abide among us as individuals, communities, and the nations...
as we come together for worship and friendship, we remember that we are the world's sources of Shalom.

(Mary Scifres Ministries, adapted)

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

*** Opening Hymn**

Bring Many Names

11

Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

Unison

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow-ing God, ea-ger,
on the move,
say-ing no to false-hood and
un-kind-ness,
cry-ing out for jus-tice,
giv-ing all you have:
Hail and Ho-san-na,
young, grow-ing God!

6 Great, liv-ing God, nev-er ful-ly known,
joy-ful dark-ness far be-yond our see-ing,
clos-er yet than breath-ing,
ev-er-last-ing home:
Hail and Ho-san-na,
great, liv-ing God!

The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.
Carlton Young, 1989

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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:

Gracious God, help each of us serve where you need us most. We are taught that greatness in your perception is different from greatness in the eyes of the world.

We are encouraged to learn that to sit at the side of Christ means to hang with thieves, to dine with prostitutes, to serve wherever we can, to live kindly always, to walk humbly everywhere, and to offer compassion to everyone who needs it.

Creator God, thank you for entrusting us with the power to be your servants and your partners in creation. We bear your living image on this earth. Help us remember that true greatness is nothing less than love, and nothing more than servanthood. In the name of the friend, sibling, and servant of all, we pray. Amen.

(Mary Scifres Ministries, 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.)

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

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we learn that God's love has no boundaries. With God's love, we are made and remade whole.

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.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Cultural Reading

Nick Cefaliello

God, help us to realize how the sin of racism has affected each one of us as individuals.

Help me to avoid generalizations and to see each person for who they are, and for their efforts to promote justice, peace, love and equality.

Help me to take the right place at the table, not above others, neither under, but together with others in harmony as we live as the body of Christ in "a discipleship of equals" (Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza).

Help me to continue empowering my people, but also any person who may cross my path and may need my help.

Help me to live in solidarity with all people, especially the oppressed ones.

At the same time, help me to recognize that I am only me, a woman with limited time and resources, and that I need to be a good steward of the education, talents and calling that you have given me. Help me to remember that I am not Jesus, the savior, but only a collaborator in his project.

~ Dr. Nora Lozano, professor of theological studies at Baptist University of the Americas and executive director of the Christian Latina Leadership Institute in San Antonio, Texas

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:3-12

Carol Moore

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:
the kin-dom of heaven is theirs.

“Blessed are those who are mourning:
they will be consoled.

“Blessed are those who are gentle:
they will inherit the land.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:
they will have their fill.

“Blessed are those who show mercy to others:
they shall be shown mercy.

“Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:
they will see God.

“Blessed are those who work for peace:
they will be called the children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of their struggle for Justice:
the kin-dom of God is theirs.

“You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Wayne Sinclair and John DiNapoli

Hymn of Response

286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of a unison refrain and four numbered verses. The refrain is marked 'Unison, brightly' and 'Refrain'. The verses are numbered 1 through 4. The score includes guitar chords and piano accompaniment.

Refrain:
Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the
wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

Verse 1:
Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from
plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

Verse 2:
1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the

Verse 3:
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the

Verse 4:
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

Last time, end

*Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.
 James K. Manley, 1978
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Chorale Prelude Wacht Auf, BWV645” by Johann Sebastian Bach (1731)

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

We rely on your promise, O God, that you will not forsake us: our pledge to you is that we will be faithful. As we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, give us a vision of what commitment can mean. Accept the gifts we place here before you, as we in our day make our response. Let what we do be an example for others so that future believers learn of Christ and his way.

~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

386

The Church's One Foundation

Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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!

My 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

“Sonata in C, K 513, No.54”

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

by Domenico Scarlatti (circa 1750)

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday October 9	Tuesday October 10	Wednesday October 11	Thursday October 12	Friday October 13	Saturday October 14	Sunday October 15
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 Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live Congregation Meeting after the service

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Ray Allen**, **Nick Cefaliello** and **Carol Moore** 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 usher, **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 **Rev. Dr. Steve Wayles** and **Dewey Roach**, and **Bill Wallace** and **Larry Metcalf** in honor of their respective anniversaries.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 52 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 18 --Facebook Total Views: 91 --YouTube Views: 11

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,182 Electronic Giving: \$769
Permanence Fund: \$25 Cumulative: \$321,710
Neighbors in Need \$51.00 Cumulative \$51

--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.

The Piano Treasury of Hymns, arr. Wayne Yankie, ©2006 Shawnee Press

Träumerei, by Robert Schumann, public domain

Chorale Prelude Wacht Auf, BWV 645, by Johann Sebastian Bach, public domain.

Sonata in C, K.513, No. 54, by Domenico Scarlatti, public domain

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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 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

--**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 will resume October 10 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.