



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



November 12, 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



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

Veterans Day Weekend
24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 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 14
arr. by Wayne Yankie

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

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

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

“Hymn to the Fallen”
from “Saving Private Ryan” by John Williams

Dr Denis Moreen, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Megan Cassette

For the greatness of creation and all that we have been given,

We thank God and are grateful to all the people who prepared a way for us,

Teaching us how to love, to share, and to work for justice.

We embrace the presence of the Holy Spirit as we welcome one another.

We find guidance for our decisions and support in our daily lives.

Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. co-creating a just world for all. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Open and closing original 1860 verses, plus later variations from the U.S. Navy Website.

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!
(1860) William Whiting, Winchester, England
2. (God), guard and guide the (ones) who fly
And those who on the ocean ply;
Be with our troops upon the land,
And all who for their country stand:
Be with these guardians day and night
And may their trust be in thy might. Author Unknown (1955) adapted
3. Lord God, our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our (ones) beneath the sea;
Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep. David B. Miller (1965) adapted
4. Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, thy law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps. J. E. Seim (1966)

5. Creator, Wisdom, who dost show
Thy splendor in the ice and snow,
Bless those who toil in summer light
And through the cold of winte night,
As they thy seasons' wonders learn;
Bless those who wait for their return.

L. E. Vogel (1965) adapted

6. O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.
(1860)

William Whiting, Winchester, England

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:

On this 112th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice of the War to end all Wars, we open our hearts to God and keep in mind the lives of others as we pray this "Prayer for Veterans Day:"

God of peace, we pray for those who have served our nation, who laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom... We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war and whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day... We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way: shield them from danger and bring them home, soon... Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace... Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor! May the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us. Christ Jesus, hear us! (Loving) Jesus, hear our prayer! Amen.

~Concord Pastor, adapted

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

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of peace, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Friends and Neighbors; Jesus says: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Amen. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

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

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

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

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 78:1-7

Linda Lang

“My people, hear my teaching:
listen to the words of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden from of old—
the things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.

We won’t hide them from our children;
we will tell the next generation.
We’ll tell them of
your praiseworthy deeds, YHWH,
your power, and the wonders you have performed.

You set up statutes for our forebears,
and established the Law of Israel,
which you commanded our ancestors
to teach their children

so the next generation would know them—
children yet to be born—
and as they come up,

they would tell their own children.

Then they would put their trust in you
and not forget your deeds,
but keep your commandments.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 25:1-13

Gary Lange

“Then again, the kin-dom of heaven could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. Five of them were wise; five were foolish. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

“At midnight there was a cry: “Here comes the bridal party! Let’s go out to meet them! Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there won’t be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. When the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I don’t know you.’

So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Fr. Tim Rogers

The Rev’d Tim Rogers is a transplant to the desert from Boston, MA. He has a love of music and is a member of The Palm Springs Gay Men’s Chorus. Tim has worked for over 20 years as an ordained Episcopal priest in parish, hospital, and hospice settings. Tim is a former staff member of Easton Mountain Gay Men’s Retreat Center in upstate New York. He is currently a Clinical Trainee as a Marriage and Family Therapist at The Center, here in Palm Springs. Tim has worked for the empowerment and integration of body, mind, and spirit of the LGBTQ+ communities for most of his adult life. Tim is very excited to be working at The Center especially at this critical time in the world.

* Hymn of Response

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

583

Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Hos. 11:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10

Unison

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

This hymn was inspired by Hosea's depiction of the parental aspects of God's relationship with Israel. It was first sung at a chapel service at Dickinson College, where Daniel Bechtel, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, began his tenure as professor of religion in 1964.

Tune: AUSTIN 8.7.8.7.
 William P. Rowan, 1992
 Alternate tune: STUTTGART

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Stewardship Moment

Carol Moore

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rich Fluechtling, 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 "What a Wonderful World"

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

by David Weiss and Bob Thiele

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Megan Cassette

Wherever we look we see your grandeur about us. All that we have is a gift of your grace. You fill each day with bountiful blessings and keep us mindful of how you care for our needs. We return to you now what you have already provided; may it be a symbol of our thanksgiving and love. Enhance their effectiveness and multiply our efforts, so that Christ's mission may spread to wherever there is need.

~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)

Fr. Tim Rogers

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

This Little Light of Mine

525

African-American spiritual

Matt. 5:14-16

1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it

shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
- 3 All--through the night, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .

This was the favorite song of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, who could sing as well as she could give powerful speeches. During that era this spiritual was sometimes modified and sung as "This little light of freedom."

Tune: LA'TIMER Irr.
African-American spiritual
 Adapt. William Farley Smith, 1987

Benediction and Blessing

Fr. Tim Rogers

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

“Hymn to Freedom”

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

by Oscar Peterson and Harriette Hamilton

--**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

Hymn to the Fallen, by John Williams, © 1998 Ensign Music Corporation/Songs of SKG, USA

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Bloom Happenings this Week

Monday Nov. 13	Tuesday Nov. 14	Wednesday Nov. 15	Thursday Nov. 16	Friday Nov. 17	Saturday Nov. 18	Sunday Nov. 19
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 4:30-6:30pm Music and Munchies at Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer’s	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

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Megan Cassette, Linda Lang,** and **Gary Lange** for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Rich Fluechtling** for serving as worship leader. Special thanks to **Fr. Tim Rogers** for presenting our commentary.

--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, **Bob Patnode** and **Hector Bayardo**, for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Carl and Lynda Toland** in celebration of November birthdays.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 21 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

Pride Parade Participants: 17

--- Facebook Live Views: 0 -Facebook Total Views: 93 --YouTube Views: 6

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$4,249 Electronic Giving: \$2,427

Permanence Fund: \$388 Cumulative: \$321,472

--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 December 13 at 6:30pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Bloom members have a 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.