



**Bloom**  
in the  
**Desert**  
Ministries



November 19, 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:info@bloominthedesert.org)**



## **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.



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

Thanksgiving Sunday  
Honoring Transgender Day of Remembrance  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 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**

Mike Welden, piano

“Sacred Road”, “Now Thank We All Our God”, “We Gather Together”

**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**

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

**Music for Centering**

“Antiphonal Kyrie”

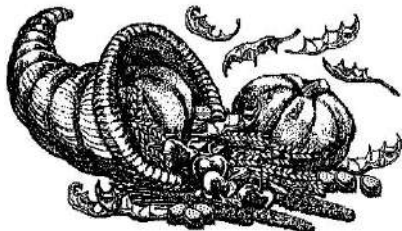
BloomTones

## \* Call to Worship

Jim Nixon

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, we pause to offer gratitude:

**To relish our bounty, to remember our historical connection to the colonies, to appreciate the help others gave us, to honor the lives and gifts of the indigenous people our forebearers displaced and killed.**



“Give thanks with a grateful heart.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

In holy presence, we renew our covenant to offer grace, seek peace, and share abundance. Together we will work to create a just world for all.

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

## \* Opening Hymn

### All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.*

*Unison  
Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them ail.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,



to Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
 The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
 The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

*This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.*

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
 English melody  
 Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

On this Sunday before November 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance, we welcome God's spiritual embrace. Together we say:



**Eternal Creator of all varieties of humankind: Help us to move beyond the exclusiveness of an either/or mentality to the inclusiveness of an all-and-every way of thinking. Move us to think beyond binary definitions to welcome the mystery of your infinite creativity. As we pause to remember persons senselessly murdered because of their all-encompassing humanity, open all hearts that need to hear, all souls that need to know, all minds that need to think, and all eyes that need to see there are no limits to you nor your creation.**

~Vicky Gibbs, adapted

**Holy Spirit: Move us to let go of ways we confuse human gender roles with your creative intention. Help us move toward being ourselves and helping others be themselves. Move us to new life in communion with all transgender and gender-nonconforming people across the world. Move us to new relationships with the people around us. Free us to cast aside the limits of stereotypes and hierarchies. Move us to create a world where Trans people are employed, valued, housed, loved, and honored.**

~The Rev. Jay Wilson, 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 Creator of grand diversity and limitless love, 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; Some days are better. Some worse. Look for the blessing instead of the curse.

**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

Deuteronomy 8:7-16

Larry Metcalf

For YHWH, your God, is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and in the hills, a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey, a land where bread will not be scarce and where you will lack nothing, a land where rocks are iron and copper is dug out of hills. You will eat and have your fill, and you will praise YHWH, your God, for the good land given to you.

Take care that you not forget YHWH by failing to observe the statutes, decrees and commands that are given you today. When you have plenty to eat, and have built a fine house to live in, when your flocks and herds, your silver and gold, and all your possessions increase, do not grow proud and forget God, YHWH, who brought you out of Egypt, from the land of slavery.

It was YHWH who led you through the vast and desolate wilderness, a thirsty and waterless land, filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions. God made water spring forth for you out of solid rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had never known. God humbled you to test you, and in the end to make you prosperous.

~Inclusive Bible Version

## **Anthem**

“A Round of Thanks”

BloomTones

## **\* Gospel Reading**

Luke 17:11-19

Carol Moore

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!”

When Jesus saw them, he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As they were going, they were healed. One of them, realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

Jesus replied, “Weren’t ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?” Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Stand up and go on your way; your faith has saved you.”

~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. Douglas

Holderlp

Rev. Douglas Holder is a native of Reading, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Reading High School and Allbright College where he earned a B.A. in Religion. He worked for Baldwin Hardware prior to starting Seminary studies at Lutheran School of Theology at Philadelphia and finished his M.Div. degree at Lancaster Theological Seminary (UCC). He was the Pastor at three UCC congregations in Pennsylvania and served as Church Musician for several Lutheran and UCC churches.

He and John met in 2002 and were married on Christmas Eve morning in 2015. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Doug and John both love to cook and bake. They are Revivals regulars, always on the lookout for a treasure.

In 2016 they relocated to California and joined Bloom the next year. They are proud and excited to be Bloomers!

\* Hymn of Response

349

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

*Unison*

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are, friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.  
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

*One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."*

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

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## 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



**Offertory-Meditation Music** “Alleluia Canon of Thanks”

BloomTones

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

We come laden with the bounty of your benevolence, O Gracious Creator, as the recipients of all your nurture and care. You cause the earth to spring forth abundantly with harvests that nourish us. Not a day passes without your providence providing the necessities to sustain us throughout our journey. May the offerings we now bring you continue to spread abroad the good news of your bountiful mercy. Amen.

~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)

Rev. Douglas Holder

**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)

--**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.

**Sacred Road**, by David Lanz, © 1996 by Nara Music

**Now Thank We All Our God**, by Johann Cruger, this arrangement © 1987 by Marantha! Music

**We Gather Together**, arr. by Jan Sanborn, ©2003 by Alfred Publishing Co.

**Antiphonal Kyrie**, music Susan Thrift, © 2010, 2013 BLP Choral Music Shawnee Press

**A Round of Thanks**, arr. Donald Moore, © 2002 Alfred Publishing

**Alleluia Canon of Thanks**, music Philip Hayes and Johann Cruger, Text Folliot S. Pierpont, arr. Patrick M. Liebergen, ©2007 Hal Leonard Corporation

**Peace, Salaam, Shalom**, words and music Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow, ©2001 Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow

"**Sing to the Lord of the Harvest**, by Johann Steulein, arr. by Jan Sanborn, this arrangement © 2003 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

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\* Sending Hymn

22

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -  
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -  
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -  
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -  
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from  
 cess - tion. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -  
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice— or - gan and  
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are  
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly  
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.  
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?  
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.  
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.  
 Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665  
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

## Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Douglas Holder

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!**

## Benediction Response

“Peace, Salaam, Shalom”

BloomTones

## Passing of the Peace

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

## Postlude

“Sing to the Lord of the Harvest”

Mike Welden, piano

<b>Bloom Happenings this Week</b>						
Monday Nov. 20	Tuesday Nov. 21	Wednesday Nov. 22	Thursday Nov. 23	Friday Nov. 24	Saturday Nov. 25	Sunday Nov. 26
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist  <b>6:00pm</b> Book Group on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>  <b>No BibleBites</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		<b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

# Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Jim Nixon, Larry Metcalf, and Carol Moore** for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Rich Fluechtling** for serving as worship leader. Special thanks to **Rev. Douglas Holder** 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, **Randy Zeese** and **Sheila Dell**, for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Phyllis Ramsey** in memory of her parents.

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

## Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 55 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1  
--- Facebook Live Views: 17 --Facebook Total Views: 105 --YouTube Views: 4

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:  
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3.114 Electronic Giving: \$1.627  
Permanence Fund: \$425 Cumulative: \$321,509  
Spare Change/Gift Cards \$200

--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](http://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 in the Hospitality Room and on Zoom.

### 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](mailto:dinoinps@gmail.com) or **Bill Wallace** at [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org).

--**For more information on the United Church of Christ**, visit [www.ucc.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.