



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
January 14, 2024

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 “From the Southland” Dr. Denis Moreen, piano
by H. T. Burleigh (20th century African American composer, 1914)

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 John DiNapoli, Worship Leader

Music for Centering “I Want to Be Ready” Kelly McDaniel

Kelly McDaniel is currently performing in *Avenue Q* at the Revolution Stage. From ages 9 to 14, Kelly lived in Birmingham, Alabama. During that time, she made many pilgrimages to Montgomery, Alabama. It was very common to sing spirituals as a young middle school chorister. Her most noteworthy performance during that time was on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. She had the pleasure of taking first place as the soloist on the spiritual, *Hush*.

*** Call to Worship**

Lynda Toland

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. (One) who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.”

“There is some good in the worst of us... When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.”

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

We come here to follow in the footsteps of inspirational leaders who show us ways to live in Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

~Words of Martin Luther King, Jr., adapted

*** Opening Hymn**

Guide My Feet

497

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

*This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
Wheel with me while I run this race . . .*

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
*African-American traditional
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992*

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this heartfelt prayer, written to help us live in the spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

O God, all people are your beloved – across races, nationalities, identities, religions, sexual orientations, and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. “We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.” You call us to action for your unending work of justice, peace, and love. Reassure us of your presence among us now. Awaken us to delight in our diversity, which glimpses the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us in your steadfast love. Transform despair and fatigue into hope and action. In the protection of your wings, carry us to find rest, renewal, strength, and hope. We are inspired by the example of your modern prophet and Christian disciple, our brother, Martin. Thank you. Amen.

(UCC Worship Ways, 2013, 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, hear now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen. **Amen.**

Words of Encouragement

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

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

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Larry Metcalf

Now young Samuel was in the service of YHWH under Eli. In those days, the voice of YHWH was rarely heard — prophesy was uncommon. One night Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping in his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.

Then YHWH called to Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli saying, “You called. Here I am!”

Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Now go back to sleep.” He went back to sleep.

A second time YHWH called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli. “Here I am!” Samuel said, “You called me.

Eli repeated, “I did not call you. Go back to sleep.”

At that time Samuel had not yet encountered YHWH, and the word of YHWH had not yet been revealed to him.

YHWH called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli and said once more, “Here I am. You called me.”

So he said to Samuel, “Go back to sleep, and if you are called, say, ‘Speak YHWH, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to sleep. And YHWH called, “Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel replied, “Yes, YHWH, I am listening.”

(Then YHWH said to Samuel, “I am going to do things in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear about them ring. I am going to fulfill all the dreadful things I told Eli I would do against his family—from the beginning to the end. You are to tell Eli that I condemn his family forever because he knew of the blasphemies of his sons against God which he ignored.

Therefore, I swear it to the house of Eli, neither sacrifice nor offering will ever expiate the guilt of the House of Eli.”

Samuel lay down to rest till morning when he opened the doors of the Tent of Meeting. He feared to tell Eli about the vision, but Eli called to Samuel, who answered, “Here I am.”

“Samuel, come here, what did God say to you? Don’t hide it from me. May YHWH curse you if you conceal from me one word of what you were told.”

Then Samuel told Eli everything, concealing nothing. Eli said, “YHWH reigns. YHWH will do what must be done.”

As Samuel grew, YHWH was with him. None of Samuel’s words remained unfulfilled. From Dan to Beersheva, all Israel recognized that Samuel was a prophet of YHWH. YHWH continued to appear in Shiloh, for Samuel first encountered YHWH there.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

John 1:43-51

Rich Fluechtling

The next day, after Jesus had decided to leave for Galilee, he met Philip and said, “Follow me.” Philip came from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.

Philip sought out Nathanael and said to him, “We’ve found the One that Moses spoke of in the Law, the One about whom the prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph.

“From Nazareth? Said Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see,” replied Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he remarked, “This one is a real Israelite. There is no guile in him.”

“How do you know me? Nathanael asked him.

Jesus answered, “Before Philip even went to call you, while you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you.”

“Rabbi, said Nathanael, “You’re God’s Own; you’re the ruler of Israel!”

Jesus said, “Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You’ll see much greater things than that.”

Jesus went on to tell them, “The truth of the matter is, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Chosen One.”.

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rabbi David Lazar

* Hymn of Response

593

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a-lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat-is-fied.

1.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?
I have wept for love of them. They turn a-way.
I will speak my word to them.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.

2.
Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain (Harmony)

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8)
MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 D with Refrain

© 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

John DiNapoli, 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 afraid, lift up your voic - es, our God is near, lift up your voic - es our God is near.

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

Kelly McDaniel

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Lynda Toland

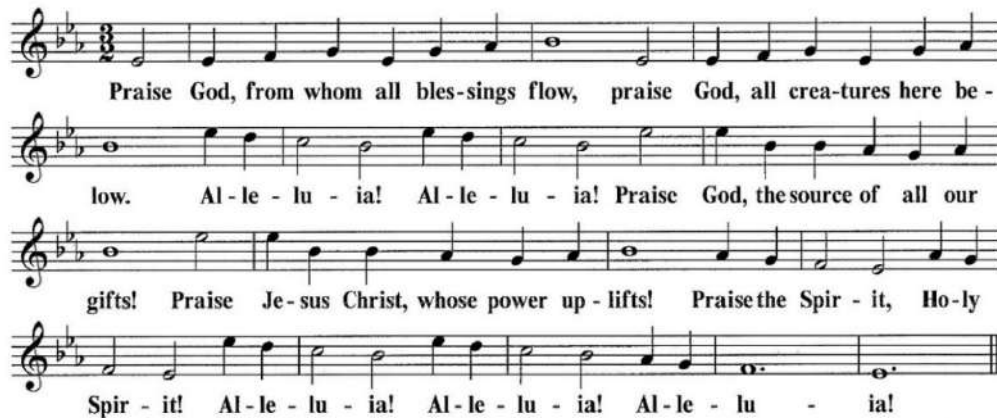
O God, you nourish us by the outpouring of your love. You strengthen us with your enlivening Spirit. Our bodies are sustained by your goodness and power. You are the source of every good act we perform and of every talent we possess. These gifts are but a portion of what you give us in abundance. Accept them as signs of our thanksgiving. 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



Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow, praise God, all crea-tures 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)

John DiNapoli, 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** (Soloist sings vs. 1, congregation joins in singing vs. 2 -5)

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Benediction and Blessing

Rabbi David Lazar

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

“Victoria Gallop”

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

by Francis Johnson (19th century African American composer, 1839)

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday January 15	Tuesday January 16	Wednesday January 17	Thursday January 18	Friday January 19	Saturday January 20	Sunday January 21
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	2:00pm Spring Fling 15 Planning Meeting in the office	4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

--**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.

From the Southland, by H.T. Burleigh, © 1914 Theo. Presser Co.

Victoria Gallop, by Francis Johnson, public domain

--**All music** contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved.

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Lynda Toland**, **Larry Metcalf**, and **Rich Fluechtling**, for serving as readers for today's service, and to **John DiNapoli** for serving as worship leader. Special thanks to **Rabbi David Lazar** for presenting our commentary this morning.

--Thank you to **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 **Rich Fluechtling** in celebration of his birthday.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Carol Moore** at carolmooreinteriors@gmail.com for assistance.

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 48 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0
--- Facebook Live Views: 18 -Facebook Total Views: 110 --YouTube Views: 5

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,822 Electronic Giving: \$4,195

Permanence Fund: \$300 Cumulative: \$322,734

Bloom's Christmas/ Year End Appeal: \$1,010 Cumulative: \$6,426 Goal: \$15,000

Spring Fling Reservations: 37 Goal: 150

--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 January 10 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**, dinoins@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**- resumes Thursdays beginning February 15, at 6pm on Zoom. Rev. Shelly Alexa Somerville, a Bloom member, will be facilitating the study of the **Gospel of John**.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. Tuesdays at 6pm. We will be reading "**When Bad Things Happen to Good People**" by Harold S. Kushner. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com.

--Jews and Christians Reading Together – Isaiah, Thursdays at 10am on Zoom, led by Rabbi David Lazar and Rev. Dr. Stephen Kenney.

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.

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.



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

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