



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



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

Transfiguration Sunday  
Celebrating Chinese New Year  
Honoring Black History Month  
February 11, 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**

Doug Holder, 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**

Linda Lang, Worship Leader

**Music for Centering**

“God Help the Outcasts”

Doug Holder, piano  
Joel Brown, tenor

**\* Call to Worship**

Randy Zeese

As God shared our humanity in Jesus, God presented a new version of power.

**God confronted the love of power with the power of love.**

Power is not meant to be used to dominate. Power is meant to serve.

**We gather today to celebrate God's realm as love in our souls and actions.**

**Love is the real gift of God's Spirit among us.**

Loving God, creator of all people and places, we offer hope and thanksgiving.

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

**\* Opening Hymn**

**Golden Breaks the Dawn**

470

*Tzu-chen Chao (b. 1888)*

*Ps. 50:1-2; Matt. 6:11-12*

*Paraphr. by Frank W. Price (b. 1895); alt.*

1 Gold-en breaks the dawn, comes the east-ern sun  
2 Give me dai - ly bread, while I do my part;

o - ver lake and lawn, new day has be - gun.  
bright skies o - ver - head, glad - ness in my heart.

Birds a - bove me fly, flow-ers bloom be - low;  
Sim-ple wants pro - vide, e - vil let me shun;



*Tzu-chen Chao was a prominent Chinese Christian leader, theologian, and dean of the School of Religion of Yenching University. He was elected one of the first vice presidents of the World Council of Churches at its inaugural meeting in 1948.*

Tune: LE P'ING 10.10.10.10.  
Chinese folk tune; adapt. Te-ngai Hu  
Harm. Bliss Wiant, 1936

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray using this ancient poem, aware of its present call upon us:

If there is to be peace in the world,  
**there must be peace in the nations.**

If there is to be peace in the nations,  
**there must be peace in the cities.**

If there is to be peace in the cities,  
**there must be peace between neighbors.**

If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
**there must be peace in the home.**

If there is to be peace in the home,  
**there must be peace in the heart.**

(Chinese philosopher - Lao-Tse - 6th Century B.C.E.)

**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.)

Eternal Source of love and creativity, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

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

### Words of Encouragement

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.

**If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.**

If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.

**If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else.**

(Chinese proverb)

**Blessing and praise to God forever. 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**

Psalm 50:1-6

Robert Van Dyke

YHWH our God  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun  
to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

YHWH comes and won't be silent:  
a devouring fire goes before God,  
while storms rage all around.

God summons heaven and earth  
to the trial of God's people:

“Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who make their covenant with me by sacrifice!”

The heavens affirm God's justice  
because it is God who is the judge!

—Selah—

(Inclusive Bible Version)

**Anthem**

“Ev'ry Time I Feel De Spirit”

Doug Holder, piano  
Joel Brown, tenor

**\* Gospel Reading**

Mark 9:2-9

Carol Moore

Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white—whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

Elijah appeared to them as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus, “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.” Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore—only Jesus.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead. (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. Dr. Michael Schiefelbein

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**Joel Brown**

Originally from the area formerly known as South Central Los Angeles, Joel shares inspirational music with a fusion of opera, jazz, and gospel. His repertoire ranges from the classical to jazz and gospel. Since 2003 Joel has anchored his career and talent in the rich repertoire of both the historic and contemporary music of the African and African American cultures. As a chorister, soloist, and administrator, Joel has performed and toured extensively with the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers. He has also accompanied (vocally) such artists as Barry Manilow, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Audra McDonald, Wayne Brady, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Director, Gustavo Dudamel (as a chorister). On no fewer than eight tours of European concert halls as well as throughout the USA Joel continues to share his gift with the world. In 2010, Joel served as the tenor soloist in Puccini's *Messa Di Gloria* with the orchestra under the direction of Joanna Medawar Nacheff. In 2011, He completed a critically acclaimed run of "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field" with Long Beach Opera. In January 2012 he sang for the former New York Metropolitan Opera soprano Kathleen Battle (at UCLA's Royce Hall) as part of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers. In August 2013, Joel produced and headlined in

"Songs That Give Us Strength" (a benefit concert for AIDS Project LA). This concert was a fusion of bel-canto, jazz, and gospel. In December 2013, Joel made his debut with Los Angeles' Southeast Symphony, as the tenor soloist for Handel's *Messiah*, and was invited back for a repeat performance in 2014.

\* 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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## Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Linda Lang, 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.

### 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

"We Shall Overcome"

Doug Holder, piano

Joel Brown, tenor

### Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

Redeeming God, you hide not your radiance, neither hold back your word. You come to us in love, fresh as the morning. We are sustained by your mercy and renewed through your grace. You have sent us your Spirit to freshen our day. All that we are we owe to you. Accept our gifts and bless our endeavors so that all we do may accord with your will. Amen.

(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 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)

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

全 因 探 情 情 賜 用 同 的 願 人 我  
 是 爲 救 不 如 給 的 行 旨 你 都 們  
 的 國 我 叫 同 我 飲 在 意 的 尊 在  
 的 度 們 我 我 們 食 天 行 國 你 天  
 世 權 脫 們 們 免 求 上 在 降 的 上  
 世 柄 離 遇 免 我 你 我 地 臨 名 的  
 無 榮 兇 見 人 們 今 們 上 願 爲 父  
 窮 耀 惡 試 的 的 日 日 如 你 聖 願

\* Sending Hymn

28

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.  
 St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7. with refrain  
 Conrad Kocher, 1838  
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

## Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Michael Schiefelbein

Our worship has ended. Our service begins. What does God need from us?

**“Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.”**

Continue to serve with faith and love,  
 depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,  
 through extravagant generosity of time and resources,  
 meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and unheard.

**We will go now seeking justice, sharing compassion, and promoting hope in the world.**

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

Doug Holder, piano

## Bloom Happenings This Week

Monday Feb. 12	Tuesday Feb. 13	Wednesday Feb. 14	Thursday Feb. 15	Friday Feb. 16	Saturday Feb. 17	Sunday Feb. 18
<p><b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist</p>	<p><b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist</p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Book Group on Zoom</p>	<p><b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal</p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service in the Office and on Zoom</p>	<p><b>10:00am</b> Jews and Christians Reading Together on Zoom</p>	<p><b>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour</p>		<p><b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live</p>

--**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.

**God Help the Outcasts** from Walt Disney’s “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” by Alan Menken, Words by Stephen Schwartz, ©1996 Wonderland Music Co., Inc. and Walt Disney Music Co.

**Ev’ry Time I Feel De Spirit**, arr. by Hall Johnson, ©1949, 2007 by G. Schirmer, Inc.

**We Shall Overcome** by Frank Hamilton, Zilphia Horton, Pete Seeger, Guy Carawan and Traditional Gospel Song, ©1960 (renewed) and 1963 (Renewed) by Ludlow Music, Inc.

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# Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Doug Holder**, piano, and **Joel Brown**, tenor for sharing their musical talents with us today

--Thank you to **Randy Zeese**, **Robert Van Dyke**, and **Carol Moore**, for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Linda Lang** for serving as Worship Leader. Special thanks to **Rev. Dr. Michael Schiefelbein** for presenting our commentary this morning.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** 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 **Linda** and **Ron Lang** in celebration of Linda's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Carol Moore** at [carolmooreinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:carolmooreinteriors@gmail.com) for assistance.

## Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 67 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 16 -Facebook Total Views: 137 --YouTube Views: 17

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,068 Electronic Giving: \$13,500

Permanence Fund: \$325 Cumulative: \$323,359

Spring Fling Reservations: 140 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate).**



## Ministries of Leadership and Support

**--Open Leadership Meetings --** At the January Open Leadership meeting, it was approved to change the time of the meetings from 6:30 pm to 2:00pm going forward. The next hybrid meeting will be March 13 at 2:00pm 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 11 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](mailto:dinoins@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

**--Bloom Book Club-** Will resume on Tuesdays at 6pm with a new book " **Be Not Afraid**" by Jean Vanier. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at [GaryLange13@gmail.com](mailto:GaryLange13@gmail.com).

**Bible Bites** will resume on Thursday February 22 at 6:00 pm. with Reverend Shelley Alexa Somerville and studying the Ezekiel on Zoom.

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

**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.

# Annual Meeting

**following the service  
in the Hospitality Room  
and on Zoom.**



**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](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951—663-5237 — [rflangX25@gmail.com](mailto:rflangX25@gmail.com)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto: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)**