



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

First Sunday in Lent
Honoring Black History Month
February 18, 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

Mike Welden, piano

“Where the Tall Tree Grows”, “Claire de lune”

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

“Abide with Men”

Mike Welden, piano

* Call to Worship

Gary Lange

We are in the presence of the living, compassionate God. We remember God made us in the image of goodness. We are the reflection of our Creator, and together we ask:

God, sustain us with the blessings of our sisters, brothers, and non-binary siblings. Ground us with friends. Bless us with the desire to seek truth. Give us the healing that we need and help us to bless one another.

May this Lenten season be for us a time of personal and community renewal.

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

* Opening Hymn

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

211

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this prayer, opening ourselves to growth and purpose:

Loving and gracious God, we want to walk in your light.

We want to be light for your world.

We want to light with love and compassion the way to safety for others.

We want to fulfill the promises we make and keep the bright promise you see in each of us.

As the Sun shines upon us, help us feel warmth as your love.

Bathe us in your truth and grace.

May your spirit within us enlighten our minds and warm our hearts. Make us instruments of your peace and love for all. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

(Mary Scrifres Ministries, adapted)

Our Silent Prayers (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect actively with God.)

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

Throughout our sacred text, when God calls people to faithful living, God gives us this clear promise, "I will be with you."

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

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17

Rev. Douglas Holder

Noah built an altar to YHWH and choosing from every clean animal and every clean bird, offered burnt offerings on it. YHWH smelled the sweet fragrance and said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of humans, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth. Never again will I strike down every living thing as I have done.”

So long as the earth lasts,
sowing and reaping,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.”

God then said to Noah and his family, “I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you—birds, cattle, and the earth’s wildlife—everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth.”

God said, “Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth.

(Inclusive Bible Version)

*** Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:9-15

Loretta Martin

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: “You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests.”

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

“This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds and believe this Good News!”

(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. Steven Wayles

Rev. Dr. Steve Wayles received a Bachelor of Music degree from New England Conservatory. He served on the UCC New Century Hymnal Committee. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Andover-Newton Theological School, and a Doctor of Ministry (major in preaching and liturgy) from Boston University School of Theology. Ordained in 1979, Steve pastored two parishes, one in Brockton, Mass., and the other in Phoenix, Ariz., before retiring with husband, Dewey Roach, to Desert Hot Springs, Calif., and Rosarito Beach, Mexico. He is a member of Bloom in the Desert Ministries and when in Rosarito attends St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church.

* Hymn of Response (Sing verse 1 in the language of your choice.)

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De colores
(Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los
1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the
2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -
hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of
song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -
col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles
joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -
sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the
va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

This Mexican folk song is known by many Mexican-American churchgoers, and has also been popular among the United Farm Workers.

Tune: DE COLORES
Mexican folk song
Arr. Alfredo Morales, F.S.C.

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 and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music

"Finlandia"

Michael Welden, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Loretta Martin

God of our hope and salvation, your covenant names us, your grace sustains us. Your Chosen One calls us, and in our baptism sets us apart. We are a people called to minister, and equipped through your mercy to perform deeds of compassion and love. Accept our offerings as tokens of our faithfulness; enhance their effectiveness in accordance with your will. May all that we do be a clear sign of our willingness to respond to the call of Christ. Amen.

(Please rise, as you are able, in celebration, as we sing the Doxology.)

*** Doxology**

Praise God the Source of Life and Birth

Praise God the source of life and birth. Praise God the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God, the Spi-rit, ho - ly flame. All glo-ry ho-nor to God's name!

Old Hundredth NCH #7

***Prayer of Jesus** (Please join hands)

Rev. Dr. Steven Wayles

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

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung,
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Steven Wayles

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

“How Great Thou Art”

Michael Welden, piano

| Bloom Happenings This Week | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday Feb. 19 | Tuesday Feb. 20 | Wednesday Feb. 21 | Thursday Feb. 22 | Friday Feb. 23 | Saturday Feb. 24 | Sunday Feb. 25 |
| 10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist | 10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist | 10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal | 10:00am Jews and Christians Reading Together on Zoom 6:00pm BibleBites Bible Study 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 **Mike Welden**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today

--Thank you to **Gary Lange**, **Rev. Douglas Holder**, and **Loretta Martin**, for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Linda Lang** for serving as Worship Leader. Special thanks to **Rev. Dr. Steven Wayles** 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, **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 **John Holder** in thanksgiving for Doug's 65th birthday.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 66--Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 8 -Facebook Total Views: 87 --YouTube Views: 21

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,947 Electronic Giving: \$4,148

Permanence Fund: \$50 Cumulative: \$323,409

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.



--**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.

Where the Tall Tree Grows by David Lanz, ©1996 Nara music, Inc.

Claire de lune by Claude Debussy, public domain

Abide with Men by W. H. Monk, arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

Finlandia by Jean Sibelius, arr. by Douglas Trowbridge, ©1985 by Birdwing Music.

How Great Thou Art arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

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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 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

--Bloom Book Club- Will resume on Tuesday, March 5th 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.

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 GaryLnage13@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.

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.



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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