

Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC Palm Springs, CA Easter 10am Service March 31, 2024

Please be seated. 9:50am Pre-Service Music

Mike Goldman and Michael Hart, trumpets Malcolm Swan, piano

Remain seated. Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Remain seated. Music for Centering

"Son Nata Lagrimar" Ivonne Ibarra, contralto Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, mezzo-soprano Malcolm Swan, piano

I was born to cry/sigh and my sweet comfort ah, always to cry! If fate betrayed our serene and happy selves, I can never hope again.

> From Handel's "Guilio Cesare in Egitto," sung by Cornelia (mother) and Sesto (son) as he is lead away to be jailed/killed.

Please stand, as you are able. Call to Worship

Shalom — Peace. Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

What brings us together?

We come seeking joy, though we find the place still shrouded.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for Jesus, the reformer who was executed because his message said love wins. He was buried and now we heard the tomb is empty. We hope the message will live on.

We will set our mind on actions of love and listen for the still-speaking voice of God. With Jesus, we rise to BE goodness in the world. Please stand as you are able, as we declare...

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

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed!



Carol Moore

Remain standing, as you are able. Opening Hymn



The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style. Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Please be seated.

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this heartfelt prayer, aware of its purpose for transformation: Eternally Creating God, even though you promise us life everlasting, our vision becomes clouded by death repeatedly. We are overwhelmed by the shadows, the despair, and the injustices of life – oftentimes overlooking the hope and promise your love gives all. While we continue to experience struggle and emptiness, help us to be aware that your love will set us free to believe that more is possible – life, abundantly – as Jesus came to say. Hear us now as we pray in silence. We give you our awareness and our thanksgiving. Amen. ~Rev. Greg Dell, adapted.

Eternal Source of creativity and mercy, hear now our silent prayers.

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.)

To all of our silent prayers let the people say Amen.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Words of Assurance

Our eternal assurance is that God never gives up on us. We are invited always to begin again.

Amen! Let us now receive the Word.

Please remain seated. Sung Response: Hallelujah! le, hal Hal - le. hal le jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal____le, lu hu jah. Hal - le lu - jah, hal - le _ lu jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Please remain seated.Hebrew Scripture ReadingPsalm 118: 1-2, 14, 17-24	Rich Fluechtling
I thank you, YHWH for your goodness Your love is everlasting!	
Let (everyone) say it. Your love is everlasting.	
God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation!	
No, I will not die— I will live to proclaim the deeds of YHWH;	
though YHWH has disciplined me often, I am not abandoned to Death.	
Open the gates of justice for me, let me come in and thank you, YHWH!	
This is the gate of YHWH, and only the upright can enter!	
Thank you for hearing me, for saving me.	
It was the stone which the builders rejected that became the keystone;	
this is YHWH's doing, and it is wonderful to see.	
This is the day YHWH has made— let us celebrate with joy! (Inclusive Bible Version)	
Here ends the Hebrew Scripture Reading.	

Please stand as you are able. Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Stelli Munnis

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb.

Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women. "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you."

The women hurried away from the tomb with awe and great joy and ran to carry the good news to the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus stood before them and said, "Shalom!"

The women came up, embraced Jesus' feet, and worshiped. At this Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee, where they will see me. (Inclusive Bible Version)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Please be seated. Anthem

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Malcolm Swan, piano Ivonne Ibarra, contralto

Please remain seated. Easter Commentary

Please stand, as you are able. Hymn of Response Rev. Jeff Munnis





Swiss pastor Edmond L. Budry may have drawn his inspiration for this hymn from a German Advent poem set to Handel's triumphant music. The tune Judas Maccabcus is adapted from a chorus in Handel's oratorio of the same name. Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with refrain *G. F. Handel*, 1751

Be seated.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings Rev. Jeff Munnis

Prayers of Concern, followed by...

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.

Prayers of Joys and Thanksgivings, followed by...

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. Amen.

Remain seated. Sung Response



Remain seated.

Offering Our Gifts — Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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. You may use the QR Code at right to donate.

Online giving is available and easy! Go to: **www.bloominthedesert.org** and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**

Remain seated. Offertory-Meditation Music

Ivonne Ibara, contralto Malcolm Swan, piano

"O Divine Redeemer"

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me tho' unworthy! Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from Thy throne, haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid, Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho' righteous thine anger, O Lord! Sheild me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call. O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not, my sins! Forgive me!

O divine Redeemer... night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to Thee; come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry, hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord! O divine Redeemer... Save, in the day of retribution, from Death shield Thou me, O my God! O divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

Original lyrics in French; Spanish translation by Ivonne Ibarra; English translation by Bard Suverkrop, IPA Source

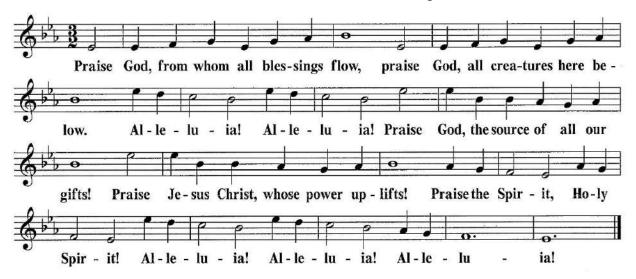
Remain seated. Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

On this holy day, receive our offerings as an affirmation of our commitment to be your faithful disciples. Strengthen our ability to be gifted stewards of your created world. We pray in the name of the Resurrected One, Christ Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

Please stand, as you are able. Doxology and Presentation of Offerings

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. And also with you.

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

<u>**Carol Moore:</u>**: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:</u>

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars, and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo!



(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

<u>Rich Fluechtling</u>: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God's people. Remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying,

"This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me."

<u>Carol Moore:</u> After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said,

"This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me."

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<u>Rich Fluechtling</u>: Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of grain and grape, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

Communion Invitation

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus welcomed everyone present. We do this in remembrance of him. We do this historically... globally... personally.... For we believe Christ is the host. Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to come forward. If you wish to remain in your seat, you are welcome to relax and enjoy the music. If you wish to be served at your seat, please raise your hand as the line ends, so the servers will come to you. Now, let all who wish to come, come, for God's table is ready.

(After a moment, ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion.)

Communion Music	"Brethren We Have Met to Worship"	Malcolm Swan, piano	
	By Craig Curry		

Please be seated.

The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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)

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Please stand, as you are able.

Sending Hymn



John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a cononastery.

Please be seated. Benediction

Mutual Blessing

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Our worship is 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 to share loving compassion and hope for justice with 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!**

Please stand. Passing of the Peace

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

Remain standing.

Postlude

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Rejoice the Lord is King" arr. by John Innes

Congregational Life Announcements

Today's Service

--A warm welcome and thank you to Ivonne Ibarra, contralto, Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer, mezzo-soprano, our soloists today, and to Malcolm Swan, on the piano, and Mike Goldman, and Michael Hart, trumpet for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to Carol Moore, Rich Fluechtling, and Stelli Munnis for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to Rich Fluechtling and Carol Moore for assisting with the Communion part of our service. Thank you to Jackson Enzler for handling the technical aspects for today's broadcast. Thank you to Logan and Gonzalo for setting up our service today.

Thank you also to **Robert Parrish, Robert Reyes** and **Gary Lange** for serving as our ushers this morning.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Buddy Sizemore** in memory of his sister.

-- Those wishing to donate flowers for our worship table, please contact Ray Allen at 405-833-1817.

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth Center: 60 –Children: 0 --First Timers: 1 --Facebook Live Viewers: 13 --Facebook Total Views: 76--Bloom YouTube Page Views: 13

Stewardship Update

--Previous Week's Support: Tithes, Offerings, and Participation: Offering, online, by mail and text: \$682 Electronic Giving: \$199 Permanence Fund: \$100 Cumulative: \$311,401

<u>Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly online giving page or visit www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate.</u>



--Please sign up for Ralph's Community Rewards Card. Choose Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Ralphs #PG245.) as your designated charity for both programs to benefit from a small percentage of your purchase totals. Every little bit helps!

Perhaps you want to remember Bloom in your estate's will, trust, or other personal legacy plan as support for Bloom's long-term mission and vitality. Bloom's **Sunflower Legacy Circle** welcomes your participation. Please contact **Fred Kilguss**, or our church office for more information. Privacy and discretion will be maintained. Thank you for remembering.

--<u>The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation</u> 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.

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

Mike Goldman and Michael Hart are both longtime brass musicians in the Desert Winds Freedom Band.

Ministries of Leadership and Support

----Open Leadership Meetings are typically the second Wednesday, 2:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be April 10 at 2:00pm PDT in the church office. All are welcome with voice. Bloom members have 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 May 12 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

--Divine Love and Wisdom meets on Tuesdays in April at 3:00pm. Led by Pastor Jeff and Dr. Stelli Munnis. All are welcome. In the office and on Zoom

--Bloom BibleBites meets Thursday evenings at 6pm with Rev Shelley Alexa Somerville via Zoom. BibleBites is reading Ezekiel. All are welcome. Zoom meeting information is in BloomNotes. --Bloom Book Club- will resume on May 7.

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 Springs10:30 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 Jim Nixon or Randy Zeese.

Our focused ministries include:

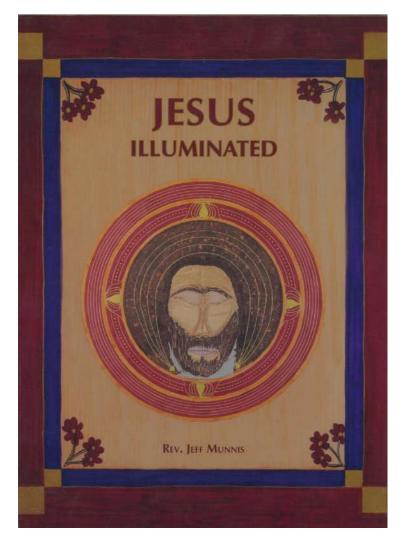
~School children's benevolence – backpacks, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.

- ~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 Jim Nixon or Randy Zeese.



"Divine Love and Wisdom"

Join Pastor Jeff Munnis and Dr. Stelli Munnis on Tuesdays at 3:00pm for the 5 Tuesdays of April beginning April 2. You can attend in person in the Bloom office or on Zoom.

The gathering will be a contemplative journey of opening yourself to Divine Love and Wisdom. During the time together, attendees will sit in prayer and meditation, followed by contemplating passages from Pastor Jeff's book, "Jesus Illuminated."

Participants can purchase a hardback version of the book from Dr. Stelli at <u>stellimunnis@gmail.com</u> or 415 747-1089. A PDF of the book is also available. Contact Gary Lange for more information at: garylange13@gmail.com

Bloom Happenings this Week								
Monday April 1	Tuesday April 2	Wednesday April 3	Thursday April 4	Friday April 5	Saturday April 6	Sunday April 7		
10:30am-1pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist (Volunteer servers welcome)	10:30am-1pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist 3:00pm "Divine Love and Wisdom" in the office and on Zoom	10:45am – 1pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul's Episcopal	6:00pm BibleBites on Zoom	3:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live		

Large-print bulletins are available for your convenience.Restrooms are in the hallways adjacent to the hospitality room.Water is available in the cooler in the entry and in the blue cooler in the hospitality area.

Emergency evacuation routes are through the hospitality room and front entrance.

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.

Sunday at Worship 10am Demuth Community Center — 360 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264

> Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 Rev. Jeff Munnis, Interim Minister — 760-483-1454 Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — 760-327-3802 www.bloominthedesert.org info@bloominthedesert.org

Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262 Office Hours — Tuesday through Thursday, 12pm to 5pm Office Phone — 760 327-3802