



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Celebrating 21 years of Sunday Worship
Honoring Women's History Month
March 10, 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

“O Come, Immanuel” by Natalie Sleeth

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

Music for Centering

“Hymn of Promise”
by Natalie Sleeth

Doug Holder, piano

* Call to Worship

Carl Toland

This is the day our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day we celebrate the 21st anniversary of our first gathering for worship in a rose garden.

We know it's not about the place, it's about people gathering in love's service.

We know it is about our relationship with God and each other, growing in faith, and making real God's dream for eternity."

This is the day our God has made. Now let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

* Opening Hymn

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

252

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

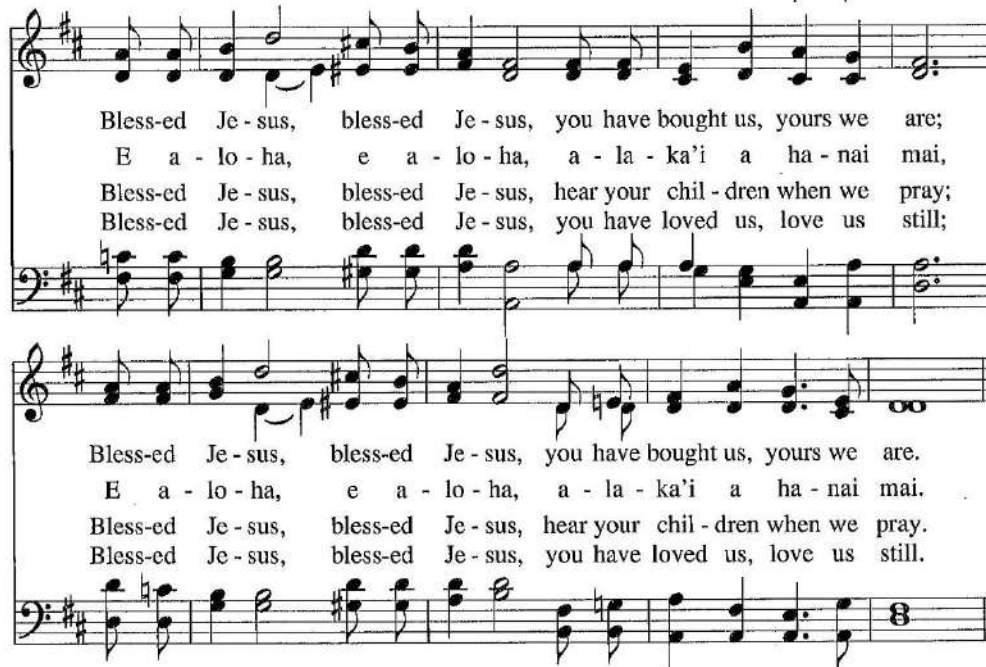
John 10:1-29

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;
 1 Ie-su no ke Ka-hu-hi-pa, Ka-hu-hi-pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
 Ei-a ma-kou ka 'o-ha-na ke ho'o-lo-he a ha-hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray as a statement of our faith now, and a call to action for our future:

Molder and Shaper of Earth, you build us to be people loving one another. By loving others, we love you.

When we stretch ourselves thin, remold us into vessels that can hold strength and nourishment.

When we get pushed down, shape our courage to reach up and extend into the world.

When we feel torn and broken, mend us to health and happiness.

You are the Potter, the Mender, the Eternal One who renews us.

Help us carry the weight of personal responsibility to do what we can to live well and share your abundance. Amen.

(www.rev-o-lution.org, 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 mercy, 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 women and men 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

Psalms 107: 1-3, 17-22

Lynda Toland

Give thanks for YHWH’s goodness;
God’s love endures forever!”

Let these be the words of YHWH’s redeemed,
those redeemed from the oppressors clutches,
those brought home from foreign lands,
from east and west, from northern lands and southern seas.

Some were fools who suffered because of their rebellion,
because of their own sins

until they were so sick, nearly at death’s door,
that food became repugnant.

Then they called to YHWH in their trouble
and God rescued them from their sufferings,

sending a word to heal them
and snatching them from the Pit.

Let them thank YHWH for this great love,
or the marvels done for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and recount what God has done in joyful song.

(Inclusive Bible Version)

*** Gospel Reading**

John 3:14-20

Carol Moore

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so the Chosen One must be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One
might have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world
as to give the Only Begotten One,
that whoever believes may not die,
but have eternal life.

God sent the Only Begotten into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that through the Only Begotten
the world might be saved.

Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgement,
but whoever doesn't believe is judged already
for not believing in the name
of the Only Begotten of God.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light came into the world,
people showed they preferred darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and avoid it,
for fear their actions will be exposed;

but people who live by the truth
come out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen
that what they do is done in God."

(Inclusive Bible Version)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Hymn of Response

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
 2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
 Justin H. Knecht, 1797
 Alternate tune: HENDON

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 69. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

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

"For Unto Us" by Natalie Sleeth

Doug Holder, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

O God of boundless love, you restore our strength through faith in your goodness. You look with favor upon us and through Christ redeem us. You take not yourself from us but promise your presence through the gift of your Spirit. You come from behind to push us and go before us as our guide. Accept now what we bring you in response to your encompassing care of us. Amen.

~When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk

(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. Jeff Munnis

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker,
Pain-bearer,
Life-giver,
source of all that is
and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

~New Zealand Prayerbook

* Sending Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,

E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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

“Everywhere I Go” by Natalie Sleeth

Doug Holder, piano

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday March 11	Tuesday March 12	Wednesday March 13	Thursday March 14	Friday March 15	Saturday March 16	Sunday March 17
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	3:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour 5:30pm Spring Fling 7:00pm Performance begins		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Carl Toland, Lynda Toland, and Carol Moore**, for serving as readers for today's service.

--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 **Jim Nixon** in appreciation of the Spring Fling volunteers.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 56--Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: not available -Facebook Total Views: 141 --YouTube Views: 17

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,234 Electronic Giving: \$3,217

Permanence Fund: \$25 Cumulative: \$323,676

Spring Fling Reservations: 152 Goal: 157

--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.

O Come, Immanuel by Natalie Sleeth.

Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth

For Unto Us by Natalie Sleeth

Everywhere I Go by Natalie Sleeth

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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 May 12 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 on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. with Reverend Shelley Alexa Somerville, studying the prophet 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.

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 **Jim Nixon** at nixonsf@aol.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
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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

Rev. "Jeff" Munnis, Interim Minister — 760-483-1454 — jeff@jeffmunnis.com

Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org

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