



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

Third Sunday of Easter
April 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

“Hymns, Part 15”
arr. by Wayne Yankie

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

10:00am Gathering Song

1. En - ter, re-joyce, and come in. Ent - er, re-joyce, 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-joyce, and come in.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

“The Lake at Evening”
by Charles Griffes

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Megan Cassette

Traveling friends, we journey the roads of life as people loving God committed to relevance and renewal.

In friendship and service, we gather here, earnestly opening ourselves to the love that God continually gives.

So then, will you join the journey to live in peace with one another?

Yes! And we celebrate our relationships – divine and human – as we continue on The Way. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

245

*John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.*

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;
From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

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, 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 offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love. Transform any despairing fatigue into hope-filled action. In the protection of your wings this hour, carry us to find rest and strength, renewal, and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus’ name. 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.)

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

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is quoted as saying, “Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

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 4

Larry Houts

Answer me when I call, God of my justice!
Give me relief from my distress!

Have mercy!
Hear my prayer!

How long will you people dishonor me before God?
How long will you love delusion and pursue lies?

—Selah—

Know that those who love YHWH
have been set apart by divine will—

YHWH will hear me when I call!

Tremble, and stop your sinning;
search your heart,
alone and silent in your room.

Offer sacrifices of justice,
and put your trust in YHWH.

So many are asking,
“Does good even exist anymore?”
Let the light of your face, YHWH, shine on us!

You put joy in my heart—
a joy greater than being full
of bread and new wine.

In peace I'll lie down;
in peace I will sleep:
for you alone, YHWH,
keep me perfectly safe.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 24:36b-48

Carol Moore

Jesus actually stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet: it is I, really. Touch me and see; a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do." After saying this, Jesus showed them the wounds.

They were incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" After being given a piece of fish, the savior ate in their presence.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the psalms, had to be fulfilled."

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name repentance for the forgiveness of sin will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses to all this."

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Response

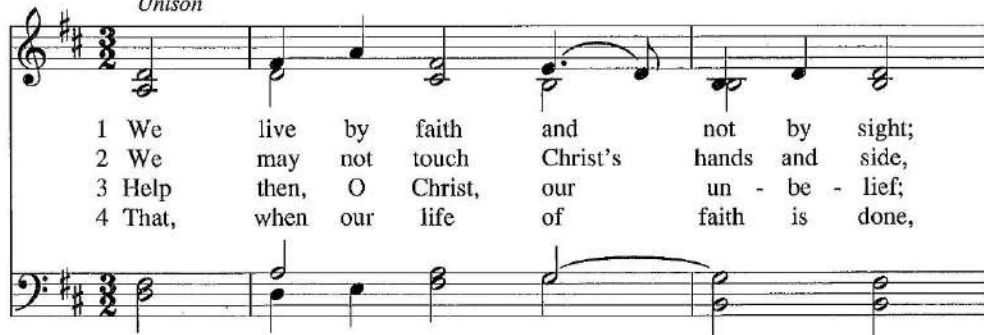
We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

Unison



1 We live by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
4 That, when our life of faith is done,



no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing
and may our faith a - bound To call on you when
in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
we re - jice: our Sav - ior and our God!
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.
Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

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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.

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

Dr Denis Moreen, piano

"To a Wild Rose" by Edward MacDowell

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

Giver of eternal gladness, Fountain of life from whom flow endless blessings, all that we have is a gift of your love. Accept now these offerings of thanksgiving, symbols of our grateful response to Christ's sacrifice for us. Use our gifts to spread the good news of repentance and forgiveness of sins. May they bring times of refreshment as results of Christ's presence 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

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)

* Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

Benediction

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Mutual Blessing

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

“Sonata no. 54, pt. 3”
by Domenico Scarlatti

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

| Bloom Happenings This Week | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday April 15 | Tuesday April 16 | Wednesday April 17 | Thursday April 18 | Friday April 19 | Saturday April 20 | Sunday April 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 3:00pm “Divine Love and Wisdom” in the office and on Zoom | 10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal | 6:00pm BibleBites Bible Study in person or on Zoom | 3:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour | | 10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live |

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome back and thank you to **Dr. Denis Moreen**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today

--Thank you to **Megan Cassette, Larry Houts, and Carol Moore** as readers for today's service.

--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.

--**Roses on the Worship Center** are offered by **Gary Lange** and **Robert Van Dyke** in gratitude for the Bloom members who have become family.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 51--Children: 0 --First Timers: 1
--- Facebook Live Views: 11 -Facebook Total Views: 69 --YouTube Views: 18

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$4,021 Electronic Giving: \$1,465
Permanence Fund: \$490 Cumulative: \$324,966

--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.

The Piano Treasury of Hymns, arr. Wayne Yankie, © 2006 Shawnee Press

The Lake at Evening, by Charles Griffes, public domain

To a Wild Rose, by Edward MacDowell, public domain

Sonata no. 54, part 3, by Domenico Scarlatti, public domain

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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 2:00 pm going forward. The next hybrid meeting will be June 12 at 2:00 pm 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, May 2nd at 6:00 pm with a new book" "**Learning to Disagree**" by John Izazu. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at 760 773-1014 or GaryLange13@gmail.com.

Bible Bites will on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. with Reverend Shelley Alexa Somerville, in person or on Zoom.

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.

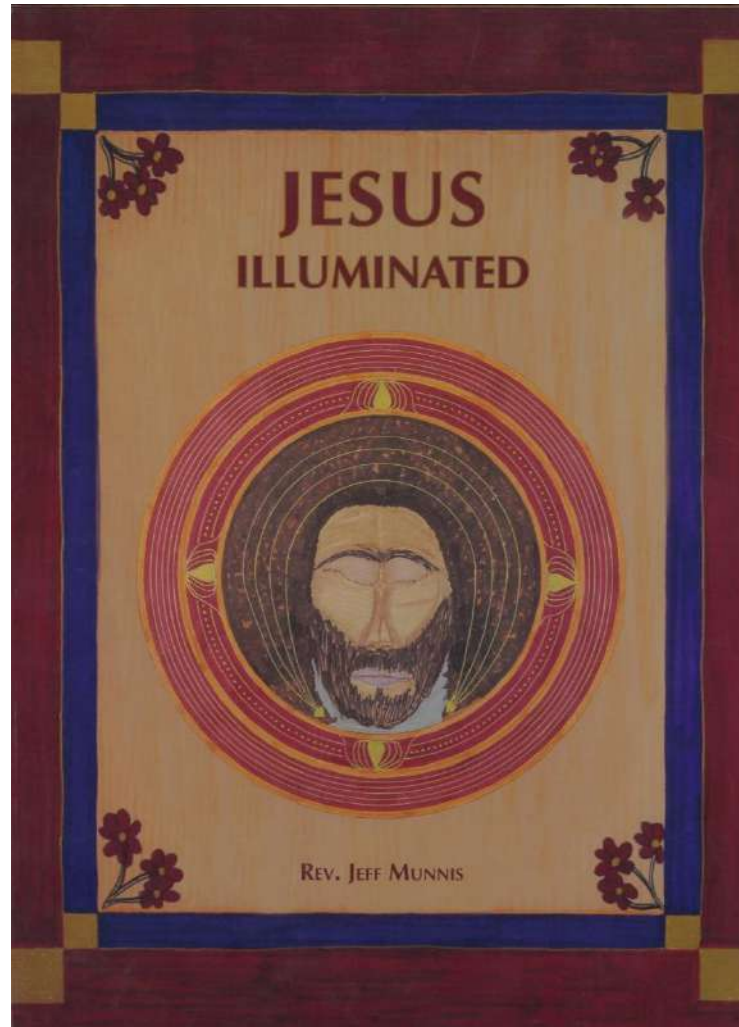
Our focused ministries include:

- 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.



“Divine Love and Wisdom”

Join Pastor Jeff Munnis and Dr. Stelli Munnis on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 pm for the 5 Tuesdays of April beginning April 2. You can attend as many sessions as you like, 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 stellimunnis@gmail.com or 415 747-1089. A PDF of the book is also available. Contact Gary Lange for more information at: garylange13@gmail.com



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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