



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



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

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 7, 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**

Malcolm Swan, 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**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Music for Centering**

Extract from the first "Novelette"

Malcolm Swan, piano

**\* Call to Worship**

Jim Nixon

Come, friends and neighbors; come, mothers and fathers; come, partners and lovers and spouses; come, children and elders; come, singles, doubles, triples and quadruples; come, one and all. Join us in singing and worshiping and celebration. Christ Jesus was raised from the dead!

**God has done marvelous work! So, now we rise to the challenge of being reasonable. We resurrect hearts to offer healing with acts of loving kindness. We liberate lives by seeking justice. We renew souls with fresh joy. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.**

\* Opening Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians

568

Verses

Harmony

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
 4. All \_\_\_ praise to the Fa-ther, from \_\_\_ whom all things come,

Melody

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
 4. All \_\_\_ praise to the Fa-ther, from \_\_\_ whom all things come,

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
 4. And all praise to Christ Je-sus, his \_\_\_ on - ly \_\_\_ Son,

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
 4. And all praise to Christ Je-sus, his \_\_\_ on - ly \_\_\_ Son,

1. And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
 2. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
 3. And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save \_\_\_ each one's pride.  
 4. And all praise to the Spir - it, who \_\_\_ makes \_\_\_ us \_\_\_ one.

1. And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
 2. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
 3. And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save \_\_\_ each one's pride.  
 4. And all praise to the Spir - it, who \_\_\_ makes \_\_\_ us \_\_\_ one.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Text: 13 13 14 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b. 1930.  
 Music: ST. BRENDAN'S; Peter Scholtes; arr. by Dennis Fitzpatrick.  
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## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

Now we enter the embrace of God, to find openness and reconciliation:

**Risen One, live in us that we may live in you. We gather to thank you for in your resurrection we are renewed and transformed. Like the butterfly, we unfold and fly free, free from the cocoon, free from all the grave clothes that bound us—our prejudices, our fears, our angers, our self-centeredness, our loneliness. We thank you because in your resurrection all those who have died who are dear to us now live with you. In you they have victory over suffering, peace never known on earth, and the joy of your presence always. We thank you because in your resurrection we ourselves may hope for the end of pain, grief, tears, weakness, and for everlasting life in the beauty of your spirit. Alleluia, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**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

Hope of all the earth, God of light and truth: your power stills the roaring of the seas and the tumult of the peoples. Defend the cause of justice and truth in a nation that shrinks from love. Renew our trust that the day will come when, together with all creation, we can shout and sing for joy.

**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

1 John 1:1-2:2

Phyllis Ramsey

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, and seen with our eyes, and have looked at and touched with our hands: the Word, who is Life—this is the subject of our letter.

That life came to be; we saw it and bear witness to it. We proclaim to you the eternal life which was with Abba God and was manifested to us. What we have seen and heard we declare to you, so that you may be one with us— as we are one with Abba God and with the Only Begotten, Jesus Christ. We write this to fulfill our joy.

This, then, is the message we heard from Jesus and declare to you: God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we say we have intimacy with God while still living in darkness, we are liars and do not live in truth. But if we live in the light, as God is in the light, we are one with each other, and the blood of Jesus, the Only Begotten, purifies us from all sin.

If we say we are without sin, we lie, and the truth is not in us. But if we admit our sins, God, the faithful and just One, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all injustice. If we say we have not sinned, we call God a liar and show that God's Word is not in us.

My little ones, I am writing this to keep you from sin. But if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate with God—Jesus Christ, who is just. Jesus is the full payment for our sins, and not for our sins only, but for those of the whole world.

(Inclusive Bible Version)

**\* Gospel Reading**

John 20:19-31

Allen Vander Linden

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of his crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands, Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Commentary**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**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 (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second staff. A '3' is written above the final measure of the first staff, indicating a triplet.

## 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

Malcolm Swan, piano

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Phyllis Ramsey

Source of life, who raised Christ from the dead, all that we have reflects your eternal love. As those in the infant church in Jerusalem brought gifts for those in need, we too bring offerings as a sign of our commitment and concern. Accept them as our testimony to Christ's resurrection, and cause them to be distributed so that others may live. 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

The musical notation is for a doxology in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The piece ends with a double bar line.

# The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**And also with you.**

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.**

**Phyllis Ramsey:** 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:

**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)

*Text and music: Anon., Argentina*

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Chords: C, G7, C, F, C, F, C, Am, F, G7, C

Lyrics (Spanish):  
¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

Lyrics (English):  
cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

**Rich Fluechtling:** 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.”**

**Phyllis Ramsey:** 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.”**

**Rich Fluechtling:** 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**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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**

“Moment by Moment”

Malcolm Swan, piano



*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

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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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

**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**

“O Disclose Thy Lovely Face”

Malcolm Swan, piano

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
<b>Monday</b> April 8	<b>Tuesday</b> April 9	<b>Wednesday</b> April 10	<b>Thursday</b> April 11	<b>Friday</b> April 12	<b>Saturday</b> April 13	<b>Sunday</b> April 14
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist  <b>3:00pm</b> “Divine Love and Wisdom” in the office and on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal  <b>2:00pm</b> Open Leadership Meeting in the office and on Zoom	<b>6:00pm</b> BibleBites Bible Study on Zoom	<b>3:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		<b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

# Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Malcolm Swan**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today

--Thank you to **Jim Nixon, Phyllis Ramsey, and Allen Vander Linden** as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Phyllis Ramsey** and **Rich Fluechtling** for assisting **Pastor Jeff** with the communion portion of the service.

--Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

Thank you also to our ushers, **Megan** and **Jack Cassette** for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God **Phyllis Ramsey** in remembrance of **Joe's** birthday.

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

## Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 96--Children: 0 --First Timers: 13

--- Facebook Live Views: 14 -Facebook Total Views: 130 --YouTube Views: 20

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$2,653 Electronic Giving: \$1,465

Permanence Fund: \$100 Cumulative: \$324,476

--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).**



--**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.

Extract from the first "Novelette" by Poulenc

**When Morning Gilds the Skies**, arr. by Lloyd Larson

**Moment by Moment**, arr. by Lenny Seidel

**O Disclose Thy Lovely Face**, arr. by Sven Benzein

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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 April 10 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](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 Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 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 on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. with Reverend Shelley Alexa Somerville, studying the prophet Ezekiel 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](mailto:nixonsf@aol.com).

### Our focused ministries include:

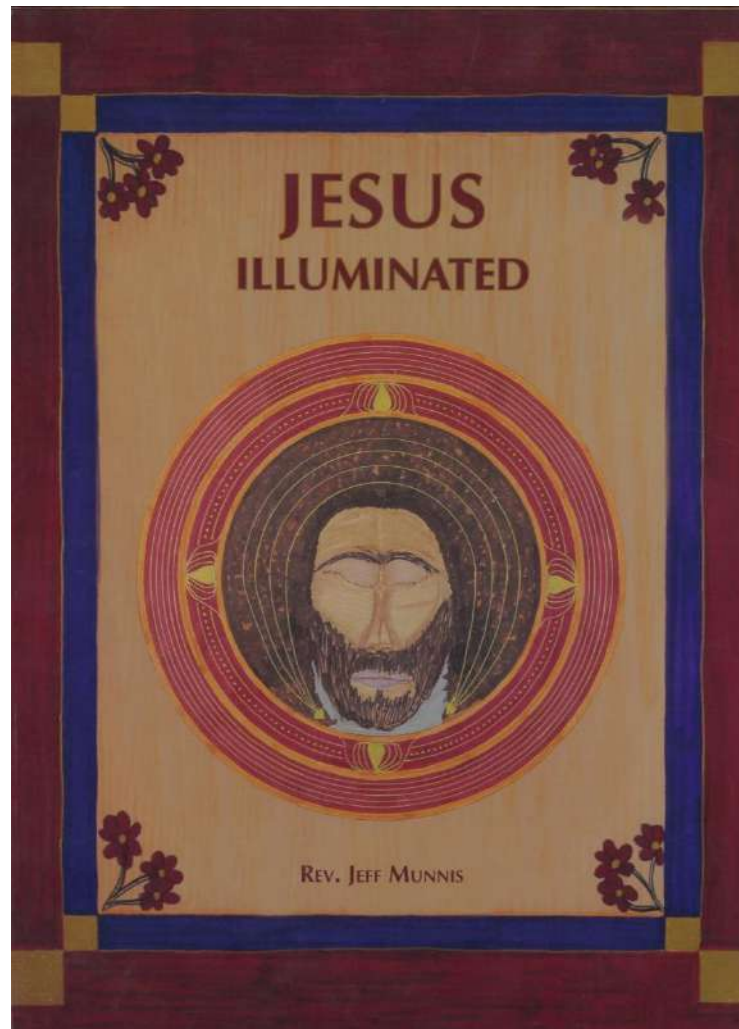
- School children's benevolence – backpacks, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.
- Relieving food insecurity – Lunch Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, food bank support.
- National church's wider mission – "5 for 5" UCC mission offerings, disaster relief.
- Spiritual and personal development – worship, 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](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.





## **“Divine Love and Wisdom”**

**Join Pastor Jeff Munnis and Dr. Stelli Munnis on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30pm 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](mailto: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](mailto:garylange13@gmail.com)**



**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**

**Rev. "Jeff" Munnis, Interim Minister — 760-483-1454 — [jeff@jeffmunnis.com](mailto:jeff@jeffmunnis.com)**

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