



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



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

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Mothers' Day
May 12, 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Hymns, Part 16” arr. by Wayne Yankie

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

“Cradle Song” by Edvard Grieg

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Robert Van Dyke

We are here to be the heavenly welcome for all God's people gathered in community and love.

Yes, we are welcome. And we are called by God to create, sustain and celebrate community that nurtures in the ways of Christ.

Here as children and parents, friends and neighbors; we engage God and each other in a historic faith, sustained with learning, love, and grace.

In this sacred space, inspired by active devotion, we share living faith and spiritual trust. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

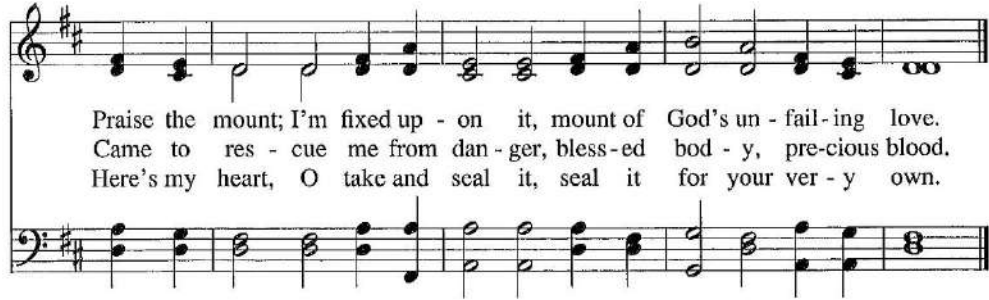
Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Loving God, you entrust human capacity to participate with you in creating children. Today we pray for mothers who gave us your gift of life; for mothers who unconditionally love and nurture their children; for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting; for mothers who are struggling; for women hoping to be mothers; for couples trying for conception; for mothers whose children grew into adulthood; for joyful mothers and depressed mothers; for mothers not up to the tasks; for mothers trying to balance work and home; for mothers whose children are challenged and/or challenging; for single mothers; for mothers in grief and fear for their offspring; for mothers who care for the children of others; for siblings who mother. Grant your blessing on all women and mothers. We bless them with our love. Amen.



(<http://bereavedandblessed.com>, 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 mother and father of all, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen. **Amen.**

*** Gospel Reading**

John 17:6-19

Carol Moore

I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you've entrusted to me does indeed come from you. I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They know that I really came from you; they believe it was you who sent me. And it's for them that I pray—not for the world, but for these you've given me—for they are really yours, just as all that belongs to me is yours, and all that belongs to you is mine. It is in them that I have been glorified. I am in the world no more, but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world. Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me with your Name—the Name that you gave me—that they may be one, even as we are one.

As long as I was with them, I guarded them with your Name which you gave me. I kept careful watch, and not one of them was lost, except for the one who was destined to be lost in fulfillment of scripture. Now I am coming to you; I say all this while I am still in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I gave them your word, and the world has hated them for it because they don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

I don't ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the Evil One. They are not of the world, any more than I am of the world. Consecrate them—make them holy through the truth—for your word is the truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world; I consecrate myself now for their sakes, that they may be made holy in truth. (Inclusive Bible Version)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Response

God Made from One Blood

427

Thomas H. Troeger, 1988

1 God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,
2 We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
3 Through fam - ilies we've tast - ed the val - ue of trust
4 Help fam - ilies in all of their var - i - ous forms

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raise us from birth,
for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,
and felt what it means to be lov - ing and just,
to face with in - teg - ri - ty strug - gles and storms;

Com - pan - ions who join us to work through each stage
The in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend
Yet fam - ilies have al - so be - trayed their best goals,
Grant peace to our homes that will nur - ture the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
of par - ents and part - ners and chil - dren and friends,
mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruis - ing their souls.
of peace for the fam - ilies you made from one blood.

This text was commissioned by Yale University Press for A New Hymnal for Colleges and Schools (1992) to provide a hymn that recognizes the many different kinds of families that are represented when a campus congregation gathers to worship.

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Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

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

“Songs My Mother Taught Me” by Antonin Dvořák

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

Armed with the truth of your love, O Shield and Defender, you sent us into the world to radiate the joy of new life. Accept our efforts, and make them productive in fulfilling your will. Enhance our gifts with the empowerment of your Holy Spirit. In all that we do challenge us to be obedient to the call of Jesus Christ, to walk in faithfulness, and to respond to the tasks you assign 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

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Piano Sonata No. 14, Mvt. 2” by Ludwig von Beethoven

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday May 13	Tuesday May 14	Wednesday May 15	Thursday May 16	Friday May 17	Saturday May 18	Sunday May 19
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 6:00 Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude 4:15pm BibleBites in the office and on Zoom 5:15pm Meditation in the office and on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Robert Van Dyke, Ray Stimson, and Carol Moore** 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 **Gwen Rustin** in honor of my new church family and mothers everywhere, past and present.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 53--Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 11 -Facebook Total Views: 190 --YouTube Views: 15

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,715 Electronic Giving: \$4,096
Permanence Fund: \$415 Cumulative: \$325,758
Easteride Offerings: \$515 Cumulative: \$3,492
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$240 Cumulative: \$240

--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

Cradle Song, by Edvard Grieg, public domain.

Songs My Mother Taught Me, by Antonin Dvořák, public domain.

Piano Sonata No. 14, Mvt. 2, by Ludwig van Beethoven, 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**, dinojnps@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**-. Meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm with “**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.

Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch served weekdays**: 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. On Thursdays, lunch is served at Our Lady of Solitude, 474 N Belardo, Palm Springs and on Fridays at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 204 S. El Segundo, in Palm Springs. Volunteers needed each day. 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 **Jim Nixon** at nixonsf@aol.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.

Spring Congregation Meeting
after the Service in the
Hospitality Room



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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@bloominthedesert.org

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