



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



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

Pentecost Sunday  
May 19, 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**

Mike Welden, piano

“Sacred Road” “It is Well with My Soul” “Children of the Heavenly Father”

**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**

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

Mike Welden, piano

## \* Call to Worship

Ray Allen

Come Holy Spirit, come. Touch us with your presence.

## Come Holy Spirit, come. Ignite understanding in us.

Here we are. Waiting for something. We gather in worship expecting something good to happen as we open ourselves to our Still-speaking God.

**Here we are. Waiting upon and welcoming God, who loves us with the Spirit of life. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.**

## \* Opening Hymn

293

## Sweet, Sweet Spirit

2 Cor. 3:17-5:5

Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

*Slowly*

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of D major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a slow tempo. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

*to Refrain*

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

*Refrain*

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

*This is one of the most popular gospel songs from the corpus of African-American songwriters who emerged during the golden age of gospel (1930-1969). Although this era was dominated by the Baptists, Doris Akers had Methodist roots.*

Tune: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT  
9.11.9.11. with refrain  
Doris Akers, 1962

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

**The Gospel of John tells us the risen Jesus came to the frightened disciples in a small room and breathed on them saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Through the life-giving breath of God, our souls are sustained eternally. Let us breathe deeply – inhaling the goodness that God provides, and exhaling all we need to release.**

Let us breathe in strength. (Pause for breath...)

**And exhale our exhaustion.** (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in freedom. (Pause for breath...)

**And exhale all that holds us back.** (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in a new sense of direction. (Pause for breath...)

**And exhale the paths we no longer want to use.** (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in hope. (Pause for breath...)

**And exhale self-doubt.** (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in unconditional love. (Pause for breath...)

**And exhale distrust and hate.** (Pause for breath...)

Holy Spirit, help us feel your presence here. Blow away our anxieties and help us to breathe in your assurances of renewed life.

**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 mother and father of all, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

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

### Words of Encouragement

“Fall seven times. Stand up eight.”

(Japanese proverb)

**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 musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the melody for 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' The second staff continues the melody with 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, -'. The third staff concludes with 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### First Scripture Reading

Romans 8:22-27

Rev. Doug Holder

We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit—we groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness. For we don't know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit expresses our plea with groanings too deep for words. And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because her intercessions for God's holy people are made according to the mind of God.

Here ends the first scripture reading.

**\* Gospel Reading**

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

JR Rasch

When the Paraclete comes—the Spirit of Truth who comes from Abba God, whom I myself will send from my Abba—she will bear witness on my behalf. You must bear witness, for you’ve been with me from the beginning. I didn’t tell you this at first because I was with you. Now I am going to the One who sent me—yet not one of you has asked, ‘Where are you going?’

You’re sad of heart because I tell you this. Still, I must tell you the truth: it is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Paraclete will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send her to you. When she comes, she will prove the world wrong about sin, about justice and about judgement.

About sin—in that they refuse to believe in me; about justice—because I go to Abba God and you will see me no more; about judgement—for the ruler of this world has been condemned. I have much more to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.

When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth. She won’t speak on her own initiative; rather, she’ll speak only what she hears, and she’ll announce to you things that are yet to come. In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

Everything that Abba God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

~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

## Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

337

Percy Dearmer, 1925; alt.

Matt. 18:20

*Unison*

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Giv - er,  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia!  
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
Al - le - lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.  
Al - le - lu - ia! We may serve with faith a - new.

*British hymnal editor Percy Dearmer originally wrote these stanzas under a pseudonym as part of a postcommunion hymn by George H. Bourne. The tune was adapted from an anthem by Harold Friedell and is named for Union Theological Seminary in New York.*

Tune: UNION SEMINARY 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.  
Harold Friedell, 1957  
Adapt. Jet Turner, 1967

Words Copyright © 1925, Oxford University Press. Text altered by special permission of the copyright holders.

## 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**





## Offertory-Meditation Music

Mike Welden, piano

“Holy Spirit, Come with Power”

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Ray Allen

O God of deliverance, with a right spirit within us we pour out our gifts in your presence. Take us and use us as you see fit. Where speaking can bring a sense of your righteousness, we offer our voices to proclaim your will. Where our efforts can free others from bondage, we offer our strength to help in time of need. We bring ourselves to be used for Christ’s sake. Show us the way, and we will respond. 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

282

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

*Refrain*

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will  
 pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing  
*Last time, end*  
 in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God  
 2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and  
 spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -  
 cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly  
*to Refrain*  
 round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine,  
 one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

Among the thousands of spirituals that exist today are songs of gladness and songs of sorrow. This well-known spiritual is a song of joy, captured not only in the words, but in the lively rhythms.

Tune: African-American spiritual  
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

**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**

Mike Welden, piano

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
Monday May 20	Tuesday May 21	Wednesday May 22	Thursday May 23	Friday May 24	Saturday May 25	Sunday May 26
<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>6:00</b> Bloom Book Club on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude  <b>4:15pm</b> BibleBites in the office and on Zoom  <b>5:45pm</b> Meditation in the office and on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe  <b>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour  <b>4:00-6:00pm</b> Bloom Night Gathering at Carol Moore’s		<b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

# Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Ray Allen, Rev. Doug Holder** and **JR Rasch**, serving 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, **Randy Zeese** and **Lynda Toland** for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Ray Allen** in honor of his mother'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: 57 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2  
--- Facebook Live Views: 11 --Facebook Total Views: 232 --YouTube Views: 8

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$278 Electronic Giving: \$199

Permanence Fund: \$50 Cumulative: \$325,808

Easteride Offerings: \$0 Cumulative: \$3,492

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$270 Cumulative: \$510

--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.

**Sacred Road**, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

**It is Well with My Soul**, by Philip P. Bliss, arr. by Harlan Rogers and Smitty Price, ©1986 by Marantha! Music.

**Children of the Heavenly Father**, arr. by James E Clemens, © 1995 by Harold Flammer Music.

**We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder**, arr. by Phillip Keverin © 2006 by Hal Leonard Corp.

**Holy Spirit, Come with Power**, arr. by James E. Clemens, © 1995 by Harold Flammer Music.

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**, arr. by Phillip Keverin, © 2010 by Hal Leonard Corp.

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

## BibleBites: *The Letter of James*

Thursday Afternoons, May 16 - June 6

4:15-5:15pm, Pacific



The letter of James is, possibly, the earliest Christian scripture that we have discovered, predating Paul's epistles and offering insight into the early church view of how to live a "Christian" life. We will address the teachings in four, weekly, one-hour sessions, reading and discussing the text together, in-person and online.

Led by Pastor Jeff Munnis and Rev. Shelley Somerville

*in-person:* Bloom in the Desert Offices

400 S El Cielo Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92262 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/f1S4i1WzWTow91DM7>

*on zoom:* <https://tinyurl.com/BibleBites>

Any questions, please call Pastor Jeff 760-327-3802 or Shelley 760-250-9661

## Meditation Circle

Thursday Evenings, beginning May 16

5:45-6:45pm, Pacific

In partnership with River of Hope, Palm Springs, we are offering one-hour meditation sessions weekly, in-person and online. We'll explore a range of styles- with guest facilitators - so that you can discover what works for you.



All are welcome!

No experience required.

Led by Rev. Shelley Somerville.

*in-person:* Bloom in the Desert Offices

400 S El Cielo Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92262 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/f1S4i1WzWTow91DM7>

*on zoom:* <https://tinyurl.com/InnerExplore>

Any questions, please call Shelley 760-250-9661

## 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 October 13 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**-. 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](mailto: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](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 **Jim Nixon** at [nixonsf@aol.com](mailto: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.



**Bloom Night Gathering**  
**Friday, May 24**  
**4:00 – 6:00pm**  
**at Carol Moore's**

We welcome a snack or appetizer to share. Bring your drink of choice. Lemonade, iced tea, and water will be provided.

Carol's address, 461 Mariposa Dr, Palm Springs. Last home on the left. Mariposa only goes West off Palo Fierro. Parking is available on both sides of the street. Contact Carol at [carol.moore.interiors@gmail.com](mailto:carol.moore.interiors@gmail.com) with any questions.





**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@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:jeff@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — [moderator@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262**

**760-327-3802 — [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:info@bloominthedesert.org)**