



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

Trinity Sunday
Memorial Day Weekend
May 26, 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

“God Bless Our Native Land” “Jesus Walked Thid Lonesome Valley” “Hymn to the Fallen”

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

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Mike Welden, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Lynda Toland

Please begin our worship hour on this day with a moment of remembrance.

We remember fallen military veterans, regardless of allegiance, for the lives they offered for the sake of others. We support their families with appreciation and comfort in grief.

We pause a brief time of silence; for a moment is the least we can do for loved ones we know and do not know who entered eternity sooner than most. (Pause for 20 Seconds)

We gather as a community of love, praying on behalf of all for: Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

Faith of the Martyrs

381

Frederick W. Faber, 1849; alt.

1 Faith of the mar - tyrs, liv - ing still in spite of
2 Mar - tyrs con - fined in pris - ons bleak were still in
3 Faith of the mar - tyrs! We will love both friend and
4 Faith of the mar - tyrs! Faith and prayer shall long out -

dun - geon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with
heart and con - science free; and no less blessed will be our
foe in peace or strife; and sow the seeds of hope and
live sin's ty - ran - ny; and through the truth that comes from

joy, when we re - call their faith's re - ward:
fate if we, like them, live faith - ful - ly:
faith by strength - ening word and fear - less life:
God all hu - man - kind shall then be free:

Refrain

Faith of the mar-tyrs, liv - ing faith! We would be true in life and death.

The Greek term martures is translated in the New Testament as "witness" and forms the basis for the English word "martyr." The hymn was written as a call for the return of the Church of England to the Roman Catholic church, and "our fathers . . ." in the original text referred to those faithful to Rome who had suffered martyrdom.

Tune: ST. CATHERINE L.M. with refrain
Henri F. Hemy, 1864
Adapt. James G. Walton, 1874

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Memorial Day Weekend

Almighty and all-loving God, this weekend we honor our military friends and relatives who lived and died around the world. They are worthy women and men – all colors, creeds, and kinds – who gave their all when called upon to serve their country. We know You bless them and honor such dedication. Their service in the continual drive to boost freedoms, and safety – and honest heritage for all of us is – inspiring. We bless their families for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, for their many different contributions toward victories over tyranny and oppression – including self-doubt and fear. We respect them. We are thankful for them. We honor them. We miss them, and we know that You received these special people with care. For all of us, with common hearts and minds, in the paths we all walk, we pray in love for happiness and peace of all. Amen.

~Joanna Fuchs, 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 creator, redeemer and sustainer of us all, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

The Words of Encouragement

God, our beginning and our end, we do not know where this day will lead, or if the paths we have confidently walked a thousand times will take an unexpected turn. In all the changes and chances of this life, renew in us the hope that Jesus always walks with us, and will never forsake us on the journey.

Amen!

Blessing and praise to God forever. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

Jim Nixon

In the year of the death of Uzziah, ruler of Judah, I saw YHWH seated on a high and lofty judgment seat, in a robe whose train filled the temple. Seraphs were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

They would cry out to one another, “Holy! Holy! Holy is YHWH Omnipotent! All the earth is filled with God’s glory!” The doorposts and thresholds quaked at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple kept filling with smoke.

Then I said, “Woe is me; I am doomed! I have unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips! And my eyes have seen the Ruler, YHWH Omnipotent!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding an ember which it had taken with tongs from the altar. The seraph touched my mouth with the ember. “See,” it said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your corruption is removed, and your sin is pardoned.”

Then I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

“Here I am,” I said, “send me!”

Here ends the Hebrew scripture reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

John 3:1-17

Alan Weaver

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer:

“The truth of the matter is,
unless one is born from above,
one cannot see the kin-dom of God.”

Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”

Jesus replied:

“The truth of the matter is,
no one can enter God’s kin-dom
without being born of water and the Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh;
what is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

So, don’t be surprised when I tell you that
you must be born from above.

The wind blows where it will.
You hear the sound it makes,
but you don’t know where it comes from
or where it goes.
So, it is with everyone
who is born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel,
and you still don’t understand these matters?”

“The truth of the matter is,
we’re talking about what we know;
we’re testifying about what we’ve seen—
yet you don’t accept our testimony.

If you don’t believe
when I tell you about earthly things,
how will you believe
when I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has gone up to heaven
except the One who came down from heaven—
the Chosen One.

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

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

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

591 This Is My Song
Ps. 82:8 *Lloyd Stone, 1934*

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'This Is My Song'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: '1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of / 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light / peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the / beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have'.

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

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

Mike Welden, piano

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Lynda Toland

You beckon us to follow you, O Christ, and to proclaim our salvation to all people everywhere. We are like Isaiah, hearing God’s voice and responding, “Here I am! Send me” We offer ourselves at the threshold of your sanctuary, to be sent forth in ministry, as the Holy Spirit will guide 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

Dear God, our Creator,
**Beloved companion and guide on the way,
eternal spirit within us and beyond us.**

Let us honor your name
in lives of costly, giving love.

Let us show that all those we meet today
deserve dignity and respect,
for they are your dwelling place and your home.

Let us share in action
**your deep desire for justice and peace
among the peoples of the world.**

Let us share our bread with one another,
the bread you have shared with us.

Let us in the spirit of your forgiveness,
**make friends with those we have harmed
and failed to love.**

Let us overcome our trials and temptations,
our suffering and dying,
**in the strength and courage
with which you overcame them too.**

Let us in your love free the world from evil,
transforming darkness into light.

For the whole universe is yours,
**and you invite us to be partners
in the work of your creating.**

So be it.
We will do it!

Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer
~Out of Silence...Prayer's Daily Round ©2006 Jim Cotter

* Sending Hymn

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How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

*St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.
St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;
 2 In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
 3 How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,
 4 How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea

our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.
 O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.
 the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.
 that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God's gra-cious gifts a-bound,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
 A-mer-i-cas! A-mer-i-cas! God grant that we may be

and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a-round.
 a sis-ter-hood and broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 a na-tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib-er-ty.
 a hem-i-sphere where peo-ple here all live in har-mo-ny.

On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.
 Samuel A. Ward, 1882

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

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday May 27	Tuesday May 28	Wednesday May 29	Thursday May 30	Friday May 31	Saturday June 1	Sunday June 2
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist Memorial Day	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 5:45pm Meditation in the office and on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at 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 **Mike Welden**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Lynda Toland, Jim Nixon, and Alan Weaver**, 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, **Carol Moore** and **Mike Kreiser** for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Carol Moore** in honor of my new church family and my one year anniversary.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 45 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 17 -Facebook Total Views: 145 --YouTube Views: 6

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$2,300 Electronic Giving: \$1,102
Permanence Fund: \$240 Cumulative: \$326,048
Eastertide Offerings: \$0 Cumulative: \$3,492
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$52 Cumulative: \$562

--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.

God Bless Our Native Land, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 2002 by Hal Leonard Corp.

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, arr. by Michael Larkin, © 2004 by MorningStar Music Publishers

Hymn to the Fallen, by John Williams, © 1998 by Ensign Music Corp./Songs of SKG, USA, Cherry River Music Co.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, by **John Bacchus Dykes**, arr. by Phillip Keveren © 2002 by Hal Leonard Corp.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 2002 by Hal Leonard Corp.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 2010 by Hal Leonard Corp.

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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 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.



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

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