

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

Fathers' Day

Celebrating Juneteenth June is LGBTQJA+ Month June 16, 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

"Theme from Cinema Paradiso" "Hear O Lord" "Finlandia"

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev, Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

"My Lord, What a Mornin"

David Bruns, bass-baritone Mike Welden, piano

Jim Nixon

* Call to Worship

For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

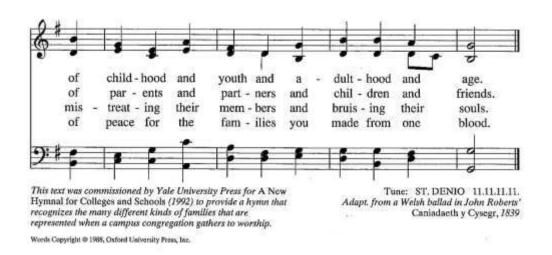
For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind. All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities.

We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers and all men among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

* Opening Hymn





In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Father's Day

Jim Nixon

Loving God, you entrust men and women with capacities to participate with you in creating children.

Today we pray for fathers who gave us their gift of life;

for fathers who unconditionally love and nurture their children;

for expectant fathers, wondering and waiting;

for those who want to be fathers or have another child – hoping and trying;

for fathers whose children grew into adulthood;

for fathers whose joy is abundant;

for fathers trying to balance work and home;

for fathers whose children are challenged and/or challenging;

for single fathers;

for grieving fathers;

for divorced and struggling fathers;

for fathers who care for the children of others;

for brothers, sisters, relatives, and others who act as fathers.

Grant your blessing on all these fathers and others unmentioned.

Help their love be deep and tender; their care be compassionate and unfailing.

We bless them with our love and appreciation in the name of Jesus a son, and our savior, brother, shepherd, and friend. Amen. <u>http://bereavedandblessed.com</u>, adapted **Our Silent Prayers** (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect actively with God.)

Eternal Source of creation and love, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

The Words of Encouragement

"God's love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God's love never ends." ~1 Corinthians 13:7-8a

Amen!

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

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!





Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years <u>after</u> President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. Note further that it was not until the 13th Amendment was adopted in December 1865, that slavery was ended in all parts of the United States. General Lee surrendered April 9, 1865.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading1 Samuel 15:34-16:13JR Rasch

Then Samuel cut down Agag before YHWH in Gilgal. Samuel departed for Ramah, and Saul went home to Gibeah of Saul. Until the day he died, Samuel did not see Saul, for YHWH regretted making him ruler of Israel.

YHWH said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve for Saul since I rejected him as ruler of Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children."

But Samuel replied, "How can I go? For if Saul learns about it, I will be murdered."

YHWH replied, "Take a heifer with you: I am sending you to Jesse. Tell him that you came to offer a sacrifice to YHWH and invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me my selection."

Samuel did what YHWH said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met Samuel. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

Samuel said, "Yes, in peace: I have come to sacrifice to YHWH. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his children and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, and said to himself, "Surely, God's anointed stands here before YHWH."

Bur YHWH said to Samuel, "Pay no attention to appearance and height: I have rejected him. YHWH does not see as mortals see: mortals see only appearances but YHWH sees into the heart." Then Jesse called

Abinadad to pass before Samuel, who "No. YHWH has not chosen this one."

Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, "Not this one either."

Seven sons were presented to Samuel by Jesse, who said, YHWH has not chosen any of these." Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest, Jesse said, "but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him: we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives."

So, they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes, and handsome to behold. YHWH said, "Rise and anoint this one."

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the Spirit of YHWH came upon David and was with him. Then Samuel set out on his way to Ramah. ~Inclusive Bible Version

Anthem

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

David Bruns, bass-baritone Mike Welden, piano

* Gospel Reading

Jesus said further, "The reign of God is like this: a sower scatters seed on the ground, then goes to bed at night and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without the sower knowing how it happens. The soil produces a crop by itself—first a blade, then the ear, and finally the ripe wheat in the ear. When the crop is ready, the sower wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for harvest."

Jesus went on to say, "What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth's seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade."

Using many parables like these, Jesus spoke the message to them, as much as they could understand. Everything was spoken in parables, but Jesus explained everything to the disciples later when they were alone.
~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



A native of Minneapolis, bass-baritone **David Bruns** graduated with a Vocal Performance degree from the University of Minnesota. He did advanced training in voice and stagecraft at the Banff Centre for the Arts, in Banff, Alberta, Canada and in Lucca, Italy; under the auspices of the University of Cincinnati CCM. He made his Italian stage debut at the Teatro del Giglio in Lucca, in Prokofiev's *L'Amore delle tre melarance*. Other stage highlights include leading roles in works by Puccini *La Bohème* and *Gianni Schicchi*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Thompson's *Four Saints in Three Acts*, and in several other late 20th Century operas. Operetta

and musical theater highlights include the following works: Weill *The Threepenny Opera*, Rodgers *Carousel*, *Oklahoma* and *State Fair*, Porter *Kiss Me Kate* and Herbert *Naughty Marietta* and *Babes in Toyland*. Since moving to Palm Springs, he has primarily been involved in singing sacred music throughout the Valley, including a recent performance as the baritone soloist in the Faure *Requiem*. Other local highlights include making his debut at PS Underground in their popular 'Light' show and performing as part of the Palm Springs Opera Guild's *Opera in the Schools* program. He has made two appearances singing the National Anthem at the annual Tour de Palm Springs bicycle race as well as singing at private parties, fundraisers, and other special events.

6

Hymn of Response

Precious Lord, Take My Hand 472 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt. 1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me let me on, 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, \$0 I tired, am 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, light: lead me on to the Hear me cry, hear call, hold my my fall: hand, lest I the At riv stand, guide my 4 cr I 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 charge." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettle, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

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

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rev. Jeff Munnis

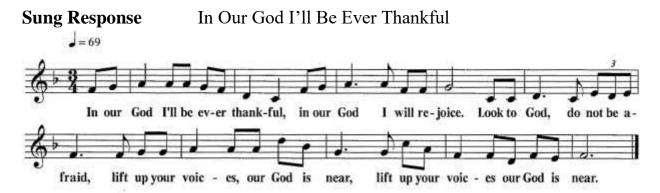
Keep watch, dear God, with all who work, or watch, or weep this day. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

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.



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: <u>www.bloominthedesert.org</u> and click on the Donate tab. Thank you.



Offertory

"Litanei" ("Litany for the Feast of All Souls") David Bruns, bass-baritone Mike Welden, piano

English Translation;

May all souls rest in peace; those whose fearful torment is past; those whose sweet dreams are over; those sated with life, those barely born, who have left this world: may all souls rest in peace!

The souls of girls in love, whose tears are without number, who, abandoned by a faithless lover, rejected the blind world. May all who have departed hence, may all souls rest in peace!

And those who never smiled at the sun, who lay awake beneath the moon on beds of thorns, so that they might one day see God face to face in the pure light of heaven: may all who have departed hence, may all souls rest in peace! ~Translation: Richard Wigmore

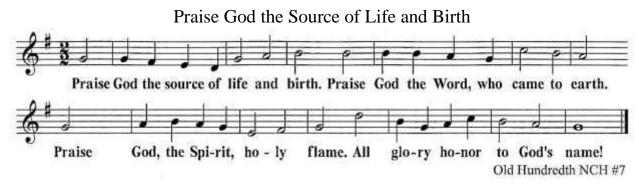
Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

O God, your goodness surrounds us, your grace sustains us, your mercy redeems us; by your love we are saved. We come before you, offering our praise for your indwelling Spirit and giving you thanks for Christ Jesus, who sends us new life. Placing before you the fruits of our labors, we confess anew our trust in your goodness. We rely on your grace. We are in the hands of your mercy as we seek to love others as you command. -Davidsbell.org adapted

Please rise, as you are able, in celebration, as we sing the Doxology.

* Doxology



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



Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York. Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr. J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921



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

"How Sweer it Is (to be Loved by You)"

Bloom Happenings This Week Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Monday Sunday June 18 June 19 June 20 June 21 June 22 June 23 June 17 10:30am-10:30am-10:45am -10:45am -10:45am -10:00 am 1:00pm 1:00pm 1:00pm 1:00pm 1:00pm Sunday Lunch for our Lunch for our Lunch for our Lunch Lunch Service unhoused unhoused unhoused served at Our served at Our at Demuth neighbors, neighbors, neighbors Lady of Lady of and on served at served at served at St. Solitude Guadalupe Facebook United United Paul's Live 4:00pm 5:45pm Methodist Methodist Episcopal Meditation in Women of the office and Bloom Zoom on Zoom Happy Hour

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Mike Welden, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to Mike Welden piano, and David Bruns, bass-baritone, for sharing their musical talents with us today.

-- Thank you to Jim Nixon, JR Rasch and Carol Moore, 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, Sheila Dell and Charlie Phelps-Ramos for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to Logan and Brooks for setting up for our service and hospitality hour.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Ray Allen** in memory of his father'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: 42 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 4 --- Facebook Live Views: N/A -Facebook Total Views: 106 --YouTube Views: 0

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation: Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,831 Electronic Giving: \$796 Permanence Fund: \$50 Cumulative: \$327,113 One Great Hour of Sharing: \$0 Cumulative: \$762

--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!

<u>Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly</u> <u>online giving page or visit www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate.</u>



--<u>The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation</u> 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.

Theme from Cinema Paradiso, by Ennio Morricone, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 1988 by EMI General Music SRL, this arrangement © 2000 by EMI General Music SRL

Hear O Lord, by Tom and Dori Howard, © 1987 by Marantha! Music

Finlandia, by Jean Sibelius, arr. by Jeffrey Lams, © 1986 by Marantha! Music

My Lord, What a Mornin', arr. by Harry T. Burleigh, © 2001 by Hal Leonard Corp.

Seed, Scattered and Sown, Music by Dan Feiten, ©1987, International Liturgy Publications

Litanei (Litany for the Feast of All Souls), by J G Jacobi

How Sweet It Is (**to be Loved by You),** by Edward Holland, Lamont Dozier and Brian Holland, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 1992 by Jobiete Music Co., Inc., this arrangement © 2006 by Jobiete Music Co., Inc.

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

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 July 9 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, <u>dinoinps@gmail.com</u> 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

--Meditation Circle-. Meets Thursdays through June at 5:15 pm in the Bloom office and on Zoom.

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 through Fridays, 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 <u>nixonsf@aol.com</u>.

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.

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 <u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/f1S4i1WzWTow91DM7</u>

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

Any questions, please call Shelley 760-250-9661

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.





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