



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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June is LGBTQIA+ Month
June 23, 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

“Still Life” “Daybreak Communion” “Over the Rainbow”

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

Mike Welden, piano

“At an Old Trysting-Place”

*** Call to Worship**

Ray Allen

The Spirit of God is among us. God calls us to bring good news to the poor.

God calls us to bind up the brokenhearted and proclaim liberty to all captives.

God seeks to be made known in this place and throughout the earth.

We comfort those who mourn and anoint the world with hope as we worship our God who liberates, who is the creator of the universe.

Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

417

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring-ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif-ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev-ing, seek-ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin-nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin-nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

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In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, remembering what we dare not forget, we welcome God's spiritual embrace.
 Together we say:

O God of steadfast love, we thank you for the lessons of the past. We remember all that you have done for us; make us truly thankful. We remember times of joy and times of sorrow; may these experiences make us compassionate toward others. We share the memory of your people as they have journeyed through time; it is our story as well. May the richness of our past be the ground out of which love, hope, faithfulness, justice and peace blossom. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus our friend and brother. 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.)

Loving creator, wonderful counselor, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

The Words of Encouragement

The Spirit of grace and love is among us: comforting, motivating, inspiring, and challenging. God is for us, not against us. Therefore, we shall be for the freedom and well-being of others, not against them.

Amen!

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

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Musical notation for the song "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!". The score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a fermata and 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

Hebrew Scripture Reading 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

Lynda Toland

Once more the Philistines rallied their forces for war.

A nine-foot-tall champion known as Goliath of Gath came out of the Philistine camp. He wore a bronze helmet, and bronze armor plates that weighed 125 pounds. He wore bronze greaves on his legs with a bronze javelin slung over his back. The spear shaft could serve as a weaver's rod, and its iron point alone weighed fifteen pounds. His shield-bearer marched ahead of him.

The champion, standing before his forces, shouted to the ranks of the Israelites, "I dare you to come out in battle formation! I am a Philistine, and you are attendants of Saul. Choose one of your best warriors to come down to me. If he defeats me and kills me in a fair fight, we will be your subjects. But if I overcome your warrior, you will become our subjects and serve us."

Then the Philistine said, "Today, I defy your ranks, Israelites! Send over a warrior to fight me." On hearing the Philistine challenge, Saul and the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Saul and your brothers and all the Israelites were in the valley of Elah, at war with the Philistines.

Early the next morning David, having left the care of the sheep with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp just as the army moved out, shouting battle cries. The Israelites and the Philistines drew up opposite each other in battle array.

David, leaving his things in the charge of the quartermaster, ran to the battle line and greeted his brothers. As they chatted with each other, Goliath, the champion from Gath, came out and shouted his challenge in the same words as before. And David heard the challenge.

David said to Saul, “Don’t anyone lose heart! I will fight the Philistine!”

But Saul replied to David, “You cannot go up to fight against this Philistine. You are just a lad, and he has been fighting all his life,”

David said to Saul, “I am my father’s shepherd. Whenever a lion or bear carries off one of our flock, I go after it, attack it and rescue the sheep from its jaws. Then if it turns on me, I seize it by its fur, strike it, and kill it. I have killed lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine will fare no better than they, for this “champion” has defied the ranks of the living God. YHWH who saved me from the lions and the bears will save me from this Philistine.”

“Go then,” Saul said, “and may YHWH go with you.”

Saul put his own tunic on David, placed a bronze helmet on his head, and gave him a coat of mail to wear. Then Saul fastened his sword on David over the tunic. But David held back, saying, “I can’t go in these. I am not used to them.” So, David took them off.

Then David took up his staff, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the shepherd’s bag which served as a pouch, and with his sling in hand, went out to meet the Philistine. The Philistine, preceded by his shield-bearer, approached David. He looked David over, up and down, and had nothing but disdain for the lad with the ruddy cheeks and bright eyes.



He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And he cursed David in the name of his gods, saying, Come, I will give your flesh to the birds and the beasts!”

David answered, “You come against me with your sword, spear and dagger, but I come against you in the name of YHWH Omnipotent, the God of the armies of Israel whom you insulted. Today YHWH will deliver you into my hands, for I will strike you down and cut off your head and leave your carcass and the carcasses of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the beasts of the wilderness. The whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will be witness that YHWH saves without sword or spear. This battle is YHWH’s who will put all of you into our power.”

When the Philistine moved closer to attack, David ran quickly to engage him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he put it into his sling, slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead—it penetrated his forehead, and Goliath fell face down onto the ground.

~Inclusive Bible Version

* Gospel Reading

Mark 4:35-41

Gary Lange

With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to the disciples, "Let's cross over to the other shore." Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus in the boat in which he was sitting. There were other boats with them.

Then a fierce gale arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat so much that it was almost swamped, But Jesus was in the stern through it all, sound asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said, "Teacher, doesn't it matter to you that we're going to drown?"

Jesus awoke, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and everything was perfectly calm. Jesus then said to the disciples, "Why were you so frightened? Have you no faith?"

But they became filled with fear and said to one another, "Who is this, whom even the wind and sea obey?"
(Inclusive Bible Version)

Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Response

177 **God of Change and Glory**
1 Cor. 12:4-27 *Al Carnines, 1973*

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the voice and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system has four measures with lyrics: '1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space, 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs, 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,'. The second system has four measures with lyrics: 'when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace. you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds. you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.' The third system has eight measures with lyrics: 'In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise. As, the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear. This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.'

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,
when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.
In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
As, the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

In our dif - fer - ence is bless - ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

one Giv - er, one Word, one Spir - it, one God known in man - y ways,

hal - low - ing our days. For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

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-
 afraid, 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

“The Rainbow Connection”

Mike Welden, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Lynda Toland

O God, as Christ calls us, your Spirit empowers us. We accept your charge to be his ambassadors for peace. Reconciled by Christ to your loving judgment, we will seek to work righteous acts of goodwill. Accept our efforts when they please you and frustrate our attempts when they do not serve you. Lead us in Christ to become worthy disciples, as, filled with your Spirit, we respond to his call. 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

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

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Mutual Blessing

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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

“Progres”

| Bloom Happenings This Week | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| Monday June 24 | Tuesday June 25 | Wednesday June 26 | Thursday June 27 | Friday Junr 28 | Saturday June 29 | Sunday June 30 |
| 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 | 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 5:45pm Meditation Circle 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 | | 6:30pm Special Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live followed at 7:30pm by an Ice Cream Social & Jazz Ensemble |

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, Lynda Toland** and **Gary Lange**, 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.

--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 **George and Jacquie Spencer** in celebration of their 63rd anniversary.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 48 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 5

--- Facebook Live Views: 13 -Facebook Total Views: 115 --YouTube Views: 0

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,225 Electronic Giving: \$2,016

Permanence Fund: \$272 Cumulative: \$327,385

Strengthen the Church: \$330 Cumulative: \$330

--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.

Still Life by David Lanz, © 1996 by Nara Music

Daybreak Communion, by Douglas Trowbridge, © 1986 by Birdwing Music

Over the Rainbow, by Harold Arlen, arr. by Jim Brickman, © 1939 by EMI Feist Catalog, Inc, this arrangement © 2009

At an Old Trysting-Place, Op.51, No. 3, by Edward Mac Dowell (public domain)

The Rainbow Connection, by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher, arr. by Phillip Keveren, © 1979 by Jim Hensen Productions Inc., this arrangement © 2000 by Jim Hensen Productions, Inc.

Progres, Op. 100, No.6, by Friedrich Burgmuller (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 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**, 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

--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 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.



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>

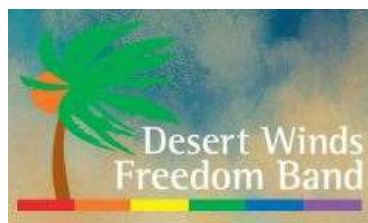
Any questions, please call Shelley 760-250-9661

Special Sunday Service & Ice Cream Social

**In Celebration of Independence Day and Pride Month
next Sunday, June 30, 2024, Bloom will hold our regular
Sunday Service at 6:30pm
at Demuth Community Center**



**Following the service, at 7:30pm, we will enjoy an
Ice Cream Social accompanied by a Jazz Ensemble from the
Desert Winds Freedom Band.**



**All Bloomers, friends, and neighbors are invited.
You are urged to bring your favorite topping(s) to “kick up”
the ice cream being served in cups and cones.
We invite you to bring cookies or cupcakes to share as well.**



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 — 415-747-9114 — 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