



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

Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June is LGBTQIA+ Month  
June 9, 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**

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Glory to God’s Name”

**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**

Rich Fluechtling

**Music for Centering**

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

**\* Call to Worship**

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

We come to worship, offering gratitude, and experiencing joy.

**Let's sing and pray with one voice of love. Let's worship as the community of God. Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.**

**\* Opening Hymn**

459

**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

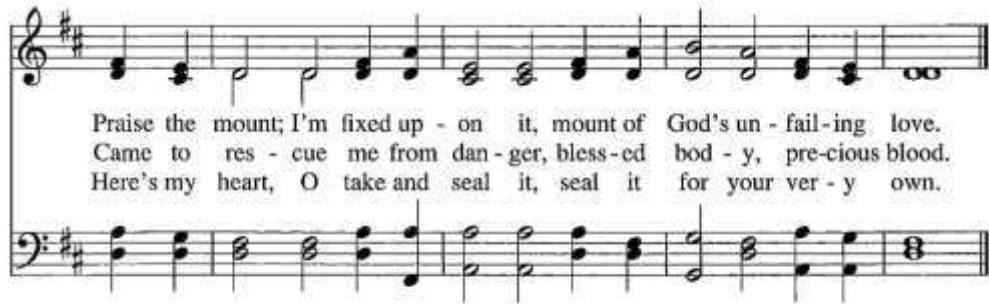
*Ps. 36:7-9*

*Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.*

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

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

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



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

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

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome the spiritual embrace of God. At this moment in our lives, we pray for God's guidance.

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;**

**God be in my eyes, and in my looking;**

**God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;**

**God be in my heart, and in my thinking;**

**God be at my end, and at my departing.** (Anonymous)

**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, sovereign of peace, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### The Words of Encouragement

God's love and grace are our reason and fuel for creating a new world, beginning with loving ourselves and culminating in service to others.

**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

Psalm 138

Mike Termini

I thank you with all my heart;  
I sing your praise before the gods.

I bow down in front of your holy Temple  
and praise your Name  
because of your love and faithfulness,  
for you have put above everything else  
your Name and your word.

When I called, you answered me—  
you made me bold and strong of heart.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, YHWH,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.

They will sing about what you have done, YHWH,  
and about your great glory.

Even though you are so high above,  
you care for the lowly  
and see arrogant people from far away.

Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,  
you keep me safe;  
you oppose the anger of my enemies,  
and save me with your right hand.

You will do everything  
you have promised me.  
YHWH, your love is eternal;  
don't abandon the work of your hands.

~Inclusive Bible Version

**\* Gospel Reading**

Mark 3:20-35

Larry Metcalf

Then Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and the disciples were unable even to eat a meal. When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking he had lost his mind.

The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, "He is possessed of Beelzebub," and, "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons."

Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive. Similarly, if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissension, the Devil is finished and cannot endure. No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.

"The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus spoke all this because they said, "He is possessed by an unclean spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who is my family?" And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, "This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother."

~Inclusive Bible Version

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Commentary**

Brian Schimpf

---

Brian Schimpf and his wife Cindy have been attending Bloom in the Desert since the fall of 2023. They moved to Palm Springs from San Diego in 2022. Prior to that they lived in Massachusetts for about forty years where they attended the Acton Congregational Church (UCC). Brian was a member of the Lay Preaching team at the Acton church. Brian retired after a career in software development in 2013. Cindy also retired from her career as a Program Manager and spent the last few years of her working life as the Church Administrator of the Acton church.

# Hymn of Response

449

## Softly and Tenderly

*Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.*

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from  
4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's  
you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are  
you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

*Refrain*  
watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come  
mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? me. Come home,  
com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,  
par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, All who are wea - ry, come home;  
come home,



*Will Thompson established publishing firms in Chicago and East Liverpool, Ohio, the community to which he left a legacy of song. Dwight L. Moody once remarked that he would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly" than anything he had ever done.*

Tune: SOFTLY AND TENDERLY  
11.7.11.7. with refrain  
Will L. Thompson, 1880

## Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rich Fluechtling

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



## 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

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

"A Prayer to God"

## **Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication**

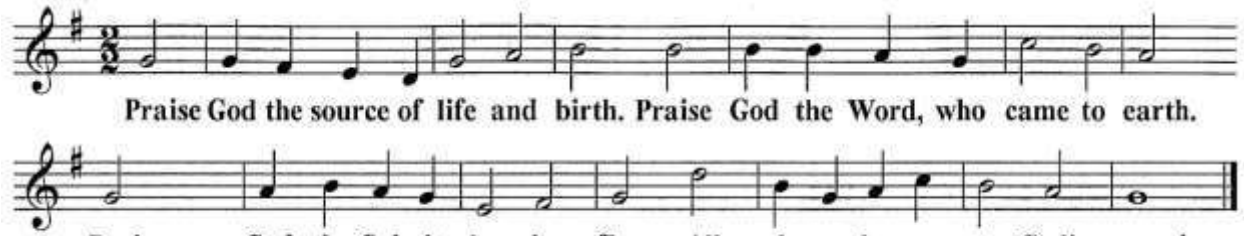
Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

You call forth eternal hope within us, O God. Our faith abounds, because of your redeeming grace. With hearts uplifted by the truth of your mercy, and spirits cleansed with the fullness of your indwelling blessing, we come before you, ready and eager to serve. Continue to fashion us until we conform to your will for us. Equip us and through Christ make us useful as agents of your all-embracing love. Amen.

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 Spirit, ho - ly flame. All glo-ry ho-nor to God's name!

Old Hundredth NCH #7

### **Prayer of Jesus**

Rich Fluechtling



**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



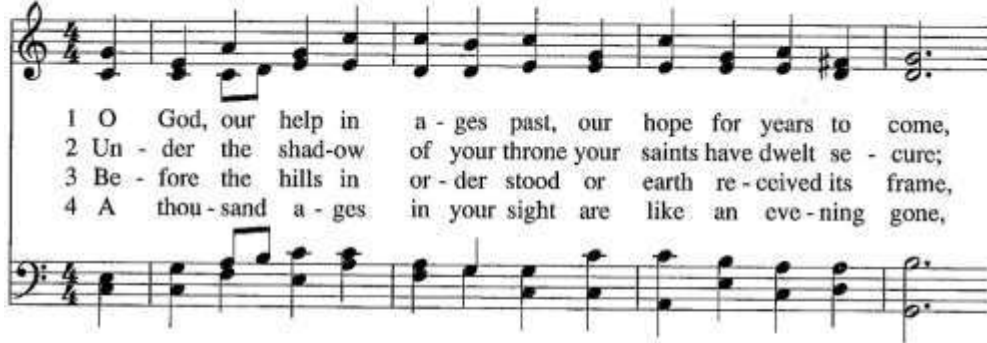
\* Sending Hymn

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

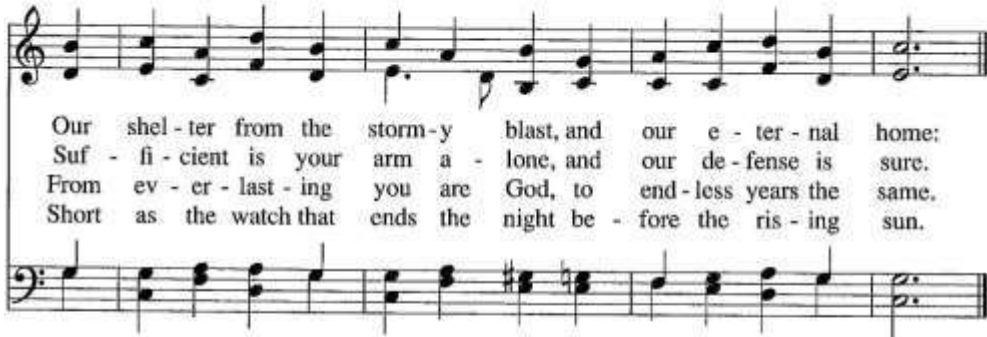
25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream  
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou-bles last,  
and our e-ter-nal home!

*Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.*

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.  
William Croft, 1708

## Mutual Blessing

Rich Fluechtling

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

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Fugue in C Major”

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
<b>Monday</b> June 10	<b>Tuesday</b> June 11	<b>Wednesday</b> June 12	<b>Thursday</b> June 13	<b>Friday</b> June 14	<b>Saturday</b> June 15	<b>Sunday</b> June 16
<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>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>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>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

# Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you to **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, Mike Termini** and **Larry Metcalf**, 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, **Bob Patnode** and **Hector Bayardo** for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Cindy and Brian Schimpf** in memory of loved ones.

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

## Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 47 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 8 -Facebook Total Views: 149 --YouTube Views: 0

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$6,801 Electronic Giving: \$3,987

Permanence Fund: \$915 Cumulative: \$327,063

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$50 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!

**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.

**Glory to God's Name**, by John Stockton, arr. by Dick Torrans

**Let There be Peace on Earth**, by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

**A Prayer to God**, by John Leavitt

**Fugue in C Major**, by Dietrich Buxtehude

--**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 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

--**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](mailto: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](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.

## 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

---

# Open Leadership Meeting

**Tuesday, June 12**

**2:00pm**

**In the office and on Zoom**

**Contact Lynda Toland to receive the Zoom link.**



**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)**