



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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 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

Doug Holder, piano

“America the Beautiful” “Here I Am, Lord” “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
‘Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” “People Need the Lord”

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

Doug Holder, piano

“People, We Have Met to Worship”

* Call to Worship

Ray Allen

God's Holy Spirit weaves us together. She compliments our diversity and mends broken threads.

We offer here and now the gifts of ourselves, for love and hope are the substance of our mission.

God's Spirit will weave us together with peace and compassion.

United, we will worship God and give each other: Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

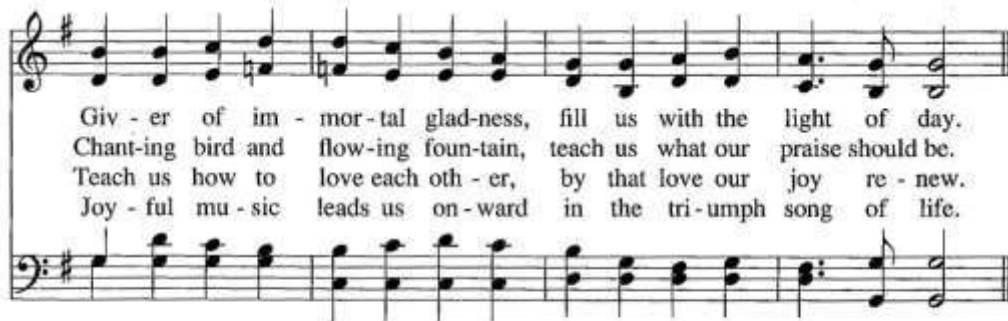
Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome the spiritual embrace of God that comes with openness and reconciliation:

Lord of the dance of life, you breathe into us your creative and joyful Spirit. You lift us from the dust into the swirling joy of your presence. We are so grateful for all that you do for us. Each day reminds us in many ways of your mercy and your love. Yet there are times in our lives when we feel lost and alone. We have been hurt and frightened and wondered where you were. Remind us again of your loving presence. Place your cosmic hands of healing on our earthly lives. Comfort us when we become afraid, lost, lonely, and fearful. Prepare us to serve you faithfully all our days. As we lift the names to you of dear ones who need your healing love, cause us to reflect on our needs for your love and our response in dedicated service to you. Be with us now, in this time and place, and all the places and times of our lives. For it is in Jesus' authority, we pray. 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, 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

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Sean D. Villarias

Praised be the maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children—such was God's pleasure and will—that everyone might praise the glory of God's grace which was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ.

It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things—in heaven and earth—together in Christ.

In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in decree of God—and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel—we were predestined to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God's own—to the praise of God's glory.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the New Testament Reading.

* Gospel Reading

Mark 6:14-29

Jim Nixon

Meanwhile Herod, the ruler of Judea, had heard about Jesus, whose reputation had become widespread. Some people were saying, “John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead, and that is why such miraculous powers are at work in him.” Others said, “He is Elijah”; still others, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” When Herod heard of Jesus, he exclaimed, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead!”

Now it was Herod who had ordered John arrested, chained, and imprisoned on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom Herod had married. For John had told Herod, “It is against the Law for you to have you brother’s wife.” As for Herodias, she was furious with John and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be good and holy, and kept him in custody. When Herod heard John speak, he was very much disturbed; yet he was moved by John’s words.

Herodias had her chance one day when Herod on his birthday held a dinner for the court circle, military officers, and leaders of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, this delighted Herod and the guests so much that he told the young woman, “Ask me anything you like and I will give it to you” And Herod swore and oath, “I will give you anything you ask, even half of my entire realm!”

She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?”

Herodias replied, “The head of John the Baptizer.”

The woman hurried back to Herod and made her request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.”

Herod was deeply distressed by this request, but remembering the oath he swore before his guests, he was reluctant to break his oath to her. So, Herod immediately sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John’s head in on a platter and gave it to the young woman, who gave it to her mother.

When John’s disciples heard about this, they came and took the body away and laid it in a tomb.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

* Hymn of Response

“Lord of the Dance”

Words: Sydney Carter, Music: 19th cent. Shaker tune; adapt. by Sydney Carter

The musical score is written in G major, 3/2 time, and consists of five systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each corresponding to a system of music. The score includes various chords (G, Em, Bm, Am, D7, C) and a 'Refrain' section. The lyrics are as follows:

Unison

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that -'ll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came to me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the
 Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may
 be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Chords: Em, G, Am, D, G, C, G, D7, G, C, D7, G, C, G

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-Meditation Music

Doug Holder, piano

“God Will Take Care of You”

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Ray Allen

O God, as David brought up the Ark of the Covenant with much dancing and singing, we also rejoice as we offer our gifts. As the Ark held the commandments, may our gifts receive your approval. As the Ark was a sign of your covenant, let our gifts bear witness to your love. As the Ark brought hope to the people, use our gifts to bring relief to the needy. Accept these offerings in response to your graciousness and may all who receive them find joy in new life. Amen.

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

* Doxology



♩ = 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.

Words by Community of Taize, Music by Jacques Berthier, adapted

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,
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

“Here I Am, Lord”

by Dan Schutte

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a- lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

1.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?

I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will speak my word to them.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.

2.

Refrain (Harmony)

Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain continues on next page

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the
 night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

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

Doug Holder, piano

“Song of Triumph”

Bloom Happenings This Week

Monday July 15	Tuesday July 16	Wednesday July 17	Thursday July 18	Friday July 19	Saturday July 20	Sunday July 21
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 2:00pm Open Leadership Meeting in the office and on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live Christmas in July

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Ray Allen, Sean D. Villariasa** and **Jim Nixon**, for 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.

--Thank you to **Logan** and **Brooks** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

--Flowers on the **Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Paul Gibb**.

--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: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: N/A --Facebook Total Views: 137 --YouTube Views: 0

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$6,576 Electronic Giving: \$3,624

Permanence Fund: \$699 Cumulative: \$336,344

Strengthen the Church: \$0 Cumulative: 682

Hot August Night Confirmed Reservations: 46 Goal: 75

--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.

America the Beautiful by ward, arr. by Berry

Here I Am, Lord, by Schutte, arr. by Carter

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You, by Beethoven, arr. by Mansfield

People Need the Lord, by Nelson and McHugh, arr. by McDonald

People, We Have Met to Worship, by Moore, arr. by Berry

God Will Take Care of You, by Martin, arr. by Berry

Song of Triumph, by Denton

--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** -- The next hybrid meeting will be July 10 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**, dinojnps@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

--**Book Discussion Group** is on hiatus for the summer.

--**Meditation Circle** is on hiatus for the summer.

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.

BLOOM IN THE DESERT'S
HOT AUGUST NIGHT



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14
7PM



\$30/PERSON

OSCAR'S PALM SPRINGS
125 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY #108

- BINGO!
- RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS
LIVE AUCTION!
- FOOD & BEVERAGE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

BINGO HOSTED BY DEVEN GREEN & NED DOUGLAS!

RESERVATIONS AT BLOOMINTHEDESERT.ORG

Oscar's
THE SCENE OF PALM SPRINGS



BENEFITING **Bloom**
in the
Desert
Ministries



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