



# Bloom in the Desert Ministries

United Church of Christ  
Palm Springs, CA

13th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 18, 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**

Malcolm Swan, piano

“

**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**

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Chanson De Matin” by Sir Edward Elgar

**\* Call to Worship**

Paul Gibb

From far and near, we gather. From far and near,  
**the Spirit of Christ brings us together.**

For peace and rest, we gather.

**It is good to gather as a beloved community of God.**

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

\* Opening Hymn

18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing  
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;  
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I - want no more.  
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### **Prayer for Good and Growth**

Now in prayer, we welcome the spiritual embrace of God. Together we pray:

**God of unity and peace, strengthen the ties that make us your community. Give us grace to recognize good intentions and meaning in this body.**

Dwell in our hearts, so we serve in humility – braided with strength and gentleness, intertwined with passion. Nourish us with love, so we grow in our knowledge of you through relationships.

**God of unity and diversity, place within all of us your Spirit of hope. When we speak without love or act without humility, help us know and change.**

Create in us hearts of patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children and adults who grow in faith and wisdom.

**Advise and strengthen this church, so we are a model of love and ministry for all to see. In Christ's purpose, 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, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### **The Words of Encouragement**

Throughout the scriptures, when God calls women and men to faithful living, God gives this promise, "I will be with you."

**Amen! Let us now receive the Word.**

## Sung Response

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Musical score for 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the melody. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, - The third staff provides a bass line with lyrics: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### Hebrew Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

Stephen Moore

Keep careful watch over your conduct. Don't act like fools, but as wise and thoughtful people. Make the most of your time, for these are evil days. Don't continue in ignorance but try to discern the will of God. Avoid getting drunk on wine — that is debauchery! Instead, be filled with the Spirit, meditating on the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to God in your hearts. Always give thanks to Abba God for everything, in the Name of Jesus our Messiah.

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

### \* Gospel Reading

John 6:51-58

Rich Fluechtling

“I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If any eat this bread, they will live forever; the bread I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Temple authorities then began to argue with one another. “How can he give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus replied, “The truth of the matter is, if you don't eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Chosen One, you won't have life in you. Those who do eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Everyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in them. Just as the living Abba God sent me and I have life because of Abba God, so those who feed on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. It's not the kind of bread your ancestors ate, for they died; whoever eats this kind of bread will live forever.”

(Inclusive Bible Version)

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

# Hymn of Response

423

## Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

\*originally "my Father"

*This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.*

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain  
William M. Runyan, 1923

Copyright © 1923. Renewed 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

## Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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

**God, receive our prayer.**

Joys and Thanksgivings:

Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of all creation. Keep us always thankful for your loving providence and help us be faithful stewards of your good and abundant gifts.

**God, receive our prayer.**

### Sung Response      In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful

♩ = 69

In our God I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in our God I will re-joice. Look to God, do not be a-  
fraid, lift up your voic - es, our God is near, lift up your voic - es our God is near.

### Ministry of Generosity — Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works

**Our tithes and offerings are an expression of our hearts and our discipleship.**

--Checks should be made out to "Bloom in the Desert Ministries." Checks and cash in envelopes with identification are recorded for your year-end convenience. **Online giving is available and easy!** Go to: [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



### Offertory-Meditation Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" arr. by William Doane

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

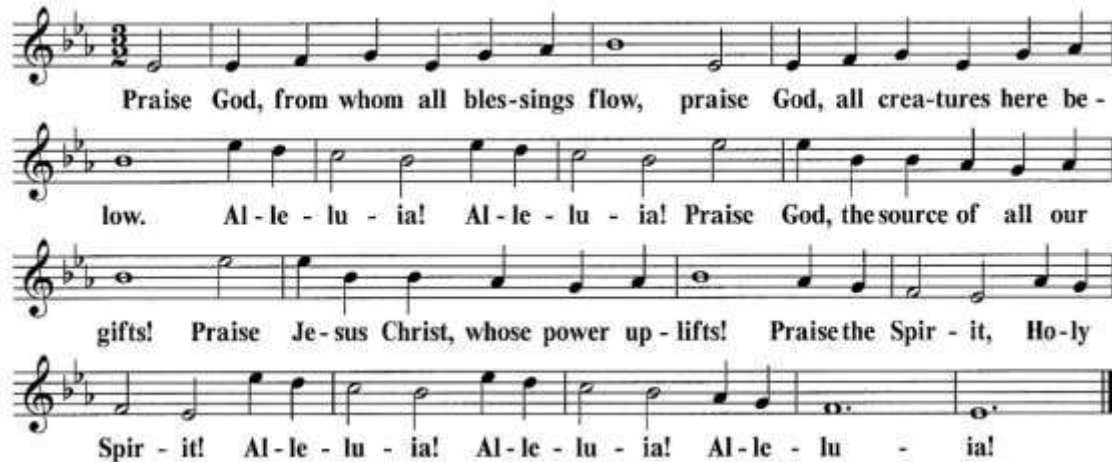
Paul Gibb

Eternal God, you redeem us in Jesus; we can boldly approach you. Sustained by his word to us, we are enabled to serve. Impelled by your Spirit, we respond to your commands. Direct us and guide us as we seek to accomplish your will. We bring our offerings; use them for your purpose. We dedicate our time, fill it with your presence. We give ourselves; satisfy your intentions. All that we have, we present to you. Amen.

(from "When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship" by James G. Kirk)

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

### \* Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be -  
low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our  
gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly  
Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

### The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Our Father, Eternal Source, Mother, Creator, and Parent, in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom, kin-dom, realm, and 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, our sins, and our 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, and dream, and power, and glory forever. Amen.**

\* Sending Hymn

451

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach 'heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*

Harmonisation Copyright © 1927, Oxford University Press. From the REVISED CHURCH HYMNARY, 1927.



## **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**

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Jerusalem” by Sir Hubert Parry

--**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.

**Chanson De Matin**, by Sir Edward Elgar

**Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**, by William Doane

**Jerusalem**, by Sir Hubert Parry

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## Bloom Happenings This Week

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
Monday August 19	Tuesday August 20	Wednesday August 21	Thursday August 22	Friday August 23	Saturday August 24	Sunday August 25
<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>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		<b>10:am Sunday Service</b> at Demuth and on Facebook Live

## Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Paul Gibb, Steven Moore, and Rich Fluechtling**, 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 usher, **Sheila Dell** 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 **Carol Moore** in memory of Leon Moore for our 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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

### Last Week’s Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 50 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 11 -Facebook Total Views: 147 --YouTube Views: 10

### Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$846 Electronic Giving: \$344

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$337,412

--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).**



### **Ministries of Leadership and Support**

--**Open Leadership Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be August 14 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 **415 747-9114** 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](mailto:nixonsf@aol.com).

#### **Our focused ministries include:**

- School children's benevolence – shoes, 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).

**You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection,**  
or leave it with the ushers for recycling.

**God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.**

Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.



**Bloom**  
in the  
Desert  
Ministries



# Welcome

Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Bloom) is a United Church of Christ (UCC) that had Methodist beginnings. This liberal Protestant church was born in 2002, as an independent ministry in collaboration with Methodist organizations seeking to start and promote inclusive Christian ministries. Sunday worship began on March 9, 2003. The fledgling congregation decided in 2004 to pursue standing in the UCC, which was established by vote of the Eastern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC on October 29, 2005, welcoming Bloom as a dual covenant, peace, and justice congregation. Bloom is a member of the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition and the Reconciling Ministries Network (Methodist). Bloom is governed congregationally according to our unique bylaws. All Bloom members and friends are ministers in our faith. Our Open Leadership Team and congregation meetings provide leadership and decision making to empower our vision, mission, and core values.

## **Our Vision**

Bloom chooses to build a loving, safe, inclusive faith community that is intellectually challenging, emotionally supportive and filled with the strength, integrity, and social responsibility that spirituality inspires.

## **Our Mission**

Guided by teachings of Jesus Christ, Bloom is a community of believers who strive to uplift and heal one another. We gather to worship God, witness our faith in the living of our lives and uphold one another in Christian living. United in our diversity we are inclusive and embracing. We agitate for God's peace and justice in our community and around the world.

## **Our Core Values**

We are a people of God's extravagant welcome.

We are a people of covenant.

We work toward a just and loving world through service and generosity.

We listen for the still-speaking God.

We encourage a life of inquisitive and thoughtful searching.

We are grounded by Christian faithfulness.

We celebrate the joy in life.

## **Sunday Worship 10 am**

Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Rev. "Jeff" Munnis, Interim Minister — 415-747-9114 — [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)