



# Bloom in the Desert Ministries

United Church of Christ  
Palm Springs, CA

14th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 25, 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

“La Pastorale” “Matters of the Heart” “It Is Well With My Soul” “Sacred Road”

## 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

Sherri Marmon, flute

“Syrinx” by Claude Debussy

## \* Call to Worship

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer

Spirit of wisdom,  
**open our minds to your truth.**

Spirit of love,  
**open our hearts to your grace.**

Spirit of unity,  
**open our worship to the mystery of your grace.**

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

\* Opening Hymn

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When Morning Gilds the Skies

Ps. 5:3; 59:16-17

Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828  
Transl. Edward Caswall, 1854; alt.

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,  
2 New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,  
3 Dis - cor - dant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,  
4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e - vil fear,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,

one pur - pose I de - clare: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
when this sweet chant they hear: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

*This anonymous German Catholic hymn was translated to English by Edward Caswall, an Anglican—and later, Roman Catholic—priest. Among the scripture references is Psalm 5:3, "O God, in the morning you hear my voice. . ."*

Tune: LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.  
Joseph Barnby, 1868

## 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 say:

**Faithful God, you care for our needs like a loving father or mother.**

When we seek you, you make yourself known to us.

**When we knock at heaven's door, you open your heart to us.**

From your hand we receive our daily bread. Receiving your forgiveness, we are enabled to forgive others.

**Trusting in your great love, may we daily persist in prayer, and weekly assemble to worship you, ready always to receive your gifts, through the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Ruth C. Duck)

**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.

**Amen! 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

Psalms 84

Sean Villarias

How I love your dwelling place,  
YHWH Sabaoth!

How my soul yearns and pines  
for your courts, YHWH!  
My heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to you, the living God.

The sparrow has found its home at last,  
the swallow a nest for its young—  
on your altars, YHWH Sabaoth,  
my Sovereign, my God!

Happiness belongs to those who live in your house  
and can praise you all day long;  
— Selah —

and happy the pilgrims who find refuge in you  
as they set their hearts on the Ascents!

As they go through the Valley of the Weeper,  
they make it a place of springs,  
clothed in blessings by the early rains.

From there they make their way from village to village,  
until each one appears before God in Zion.

YHWH, God of Hosts, hear my prayer;  
Listen, O God of our ancestors!  
— Selah —

O God, our shield, show us your favor  
and look upon the face of your Anointed—

for a single day in your courts  
is worth more than a thousand anywhere else;  
better to be a humble doorkeeper in God's house  
than to live richly in the tents of the corrupt.

For you, YHWH our God, are a battlement and shield,  
bestowing grace and glory;  
YHWH withholds nothing good  
from those whose walk is blameless.

YHWH Sabaoth,  
happy are those who put their trust in you! ~The Inclusive Bible Translation

## **Anthem**

“Salut D” Amour” by Sir Edward Elgar

Sherri Marmon, flute

## **\* Gospel Reading**

John 7:37-52

Loretta Martin

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“Any who are thirsty,  
let them come to me and drink!  
Those who believe in me, as the scripture says,  
‘From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

Here Jesus was referring to the Spirit, which those who came to believe were to receive—though she had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Several people in the crowd who had heard the words of Jesus began to say, “This must be the prophet.” But others were saying, “He’s the Messiah.” Still others said, “Surely the Messiah is not to come from Galilee? Doesn’t scripture say that the Messiah, being of David’s lineage, is to come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” So, the people were sharply divided over this. Some of them even wanted to arrest Jesus. However, no one laid hands on him.

The Temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why haven’t you brought him in?”

“No one ever spoke like that before,” the guards responded.

“So, you too have been taken in! the Pharisees replied “Do any of the Sanhedrin believe in him? Any of the Pharisees? The rabble knows nothing about the Law—and they are damned anyway!”

One of their own, Nicodemus—the same person who had come to Jesus earlier—said to them, “Since when does our Law condemn anyone without first hearing the accused and knowing the facts?”

“Don’t tell us you’re a Galilean, too!” they taunted him. “Look it up. You’ll see that no prophet comes from Galilee.”

(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

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## Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Unison, brightly*  
*Refrain*

*James K. Manley, 1978; alt.*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of a unison refrain and four numbered verses. The refrain is marked 'Unison, brightly' and 'Refrain'. The verses are numbered 1 through 4. The score includes guitar chords (D, G, A, Dsus4, Bm, E7, Asus7, A7) and lyrics. The final measure of the refrain is marked 'Last time, end'.

**Refrain:**  
Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the  
wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,  
Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from  
plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

**Verse 1:** 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
**Verse 2:** 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
**Verse 3:** 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
**Verse 4:** 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

*\*Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their  
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 to Refrain

bers and rise on your wings."  
 ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 ple on the rush of the wind.  
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waiiokeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.*

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.  
 James K. Manley, 1978  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

## 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

Sherri Marmon, flute

"Sicilienne" by Gabriel Faure

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Sherri Marmon is the Principal Flutist and Director-at-Large of the Desert Winds Freedom Band in Palm Springs. She works remotely full-time in book publishing as the Deputy Director of Permissions at Penguin Random House LLC based in New York City, but music has always been her true passion. Prior to moving to Palm Desert in 2021 with her husband Dave, Sherri lived in Brooklyn, NY, where she performed regularly with the Brooklyn Wind Symphony -- including a sold-out concert at Lincoln Center -- and subbed as Principal Flute with the New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Sherri is thrilled to call the Coachella Valley home and looks forward to expanding her avocational career as a flutist in Southern California.



## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Loretta Martin

God of goodness and mercy, we bring you our offerings. We laud you with thanksgiving for the blessings you bestow. You fill us with hope, we give you our commitment. You instill us with confidence; we offer our trust. You teach us how to sacrifice; we seek to be faithful. You call us to obey you; we pledge our allegiance. All that we have we place before you. Use us and mold us to conform to your will. 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

### O Breathing Life,

your Name shines everywhere!

Release a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine your possibilities now.

Embody your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us,

as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not forget our Source,

Yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Vision, Power and Song

from gathering to gathering. Amen -

May our future actions grow from here!

(Mark Berry, Emerging Church Movement)

\* Sending Hymn

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Forward through the Ages

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,  
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;  
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;  
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.  
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,  
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,  
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.  
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.  
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

*Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.*

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D, with refrain  
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

*Refrain*

For-ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,  
Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

## 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

“On Our Way Home” by David Lanz

Mike Welden, piano

--**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.

“La Pastorale, Op. 100, No. 3, by Friedrich Burgmuller

**Matters of the Heart**, by Douglas Trowbridge, ©1985 by Birdwing Music

**It Is Well with My Soul**, by Philip Bliss, arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

**Sacred Road**, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

**Syrinx**, by Claude Debussy, ©1983 Fentone Music Ltd.

**Salut D’ Amour**, by Sir Edgar Elgar, arr. by Ricky Lombardo

**Sicilienne**, by Gabriel Faure, arr. by A.L. Christopherson, ©2013 by Anne Christopherson

**On Our Way Home**, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

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## Bloom Happenings This Week

| Monday<br>August 26   | Tuesday<br>August 27  | Wednesday<br>August 28   | Thursday<br>August 29   | Friday<br>August 30  | Saturday<br>August 31 | Sunday<br>Sept. 1   |
|---|---|--|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| <b>10:30am-1:00pm</b><br>Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist | <b>10:30am-1:00pm</b><br>Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist | <b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch<br>for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul’s Episcopal | <b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b><br>Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude | <b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b><br>Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe |                       | <b>10:am Sunday Service</b><br>at Demuth and on Facebook Live |

## Congregational Life Announcements

- A warm welcome and thank you to **Sherri Marmon**, flute, and **Mike Welden** piano, for sharing their musical talents with us today.
- Thank you, **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer**, **Sean Villariasa**, and **Loretta Martin**, 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, **Mike Kreiser** and **Charlie Ramos-Phelps** 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 **Larry Metcalf** and **Bill Wallace** in celebration of Bill’s birthday.
- Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405 833-1817 for assistance.

### Last Week’s Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 43 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1  
 --- Facebook Live Views: 12 -Facebook Total Views: 138 --YouTube Views: 13

### Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:  
 Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,094 Electronic Giving: \$2,169  
 Permanence Fund: \$847 Cumulative: \$338,259

--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 September 11 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](mailto:dinojnps@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** will resume on September 10 at 6pm on Zoom.

--**Enneagram Personality Group** will begin September 18 at 4pm in the Bloom office.

### 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)