



Bloom in the Desert Ministries

United Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

September 29, 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

“His Provision” by Ivor Boasanko

* Call to Worship

Larry Metcalf

Compassionate God, we stand with all who hurt and mourn, and with all who celebrate and rejoice; we gather here to connect in your Spirit everywhere.

**God who is love, your cosmic hands built the earth and sowed the stars
across the sky, we trust you to inspire us to do your loving deeds on behalf
of those who need your help.**

As Christ-blessed people, we pray for ourselves and our brothers and sisters. Help this time of worship minister to our souls, feed our minds, and motivate us for good.

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

* Opening Hymn

46

Hope of the World

Georgia Harkness, 1954; alt.

1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift of our re - demp - tion,
 3 Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us
 4 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,

speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict torn.
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
 from death and sad de - spair, from sin and guilt,
 who by this sign did con - quer grief and pain,

Save us your peo - ple from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 Still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 We ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
 We would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;

from false pur - suits through which our lives are worn.
 to heal earth's wounds and end its bit - ter strife.
 take back our lives and use them as you will.
 our Sov - erign who for - ev - er more shall reign!

Author of many books in her field and an internationally recognized teacher, Georgia Harkness was one of the leading women theologians of her generation. This text was written for the Second General Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Tune: ANCIENT OF DAYS 11.10.11.10
J. Albert Jeffrey, 1886
 Adapt. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

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In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray together this prayer for a new world, speaking from our hearts:

We live and work and play, dear God, and we are grateful for your energy spark that powers our lives. You provide us opportunities every moment to make situations and relationships a little better. Eternal God, help us in these moments to create your new world where all people are valued. Help us build a new economy where house cleaners are able to buy homes. Help us seed and nurture a new bargain so farmworkers can afford to eat. Help us commit minds to peace, so that no one needs to huddle in fear. And help us organize a new order where people serving in stores, military, schools, nursing homes, and many other places are also served by us. This is the New World of mercy and justice you promise, sharing in the love and abundance you give.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

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. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Eternal Source of compassion and justice, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are shown that God's love has no bounds. No one can separate us from the love of God.

Thanks be to God. 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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Sean Villariosa

King Ahasuerus and Haman arrived at Esther's banquet. The next day, as they were drinking their wine, Ahasuerus said, "What do you desire, Esther?" Anything you say will be given to you."

Esther replied, "My sovereign, if I have found favor in your eyes and if it be your wish, I ask you to spare my life, and the lives of my people. That is what I desire most. For we, my people and I, have been condemned to be destroyed, slain and turned into chattel—ourselves and our children. Had you merely intended to make us slaves, I would have said nothing. All this has been told to me by a reliable source. Our enemy brings shame upon the imperial court."

Ahasuerus said, "Who is this person who would dare do such a thing?"

Esther replied, "Our enemy is this scoundrel Haman."

Haman was terrified and shrank in the presence of Ahasuerus and Esther.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs, said, "I have seen it myself. Haman has prepared a gallows for Mordecai—the very person who gave you true information. The gallows stands in front of Haman's house and is seventy-five feet high."



Esther accuses Haman

Ahasuerus declared, "That is where Haman will hang. So, Haman was hung on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai. Only then was Ahasuerus' anger abated.

Mordecai wrote down all these things in a scroll and sent copies to all the Jewish communities throughout the empire of Ahasuerus, both far and near, telling them that they should keep the fourteenth and fifteenth day of Adar, the days they vanquished their enemies. They were to commemorate the entire month of Adar, for it was in that month when their lot had been changed from sorrow to joy. They were told to observe these days for celebrations and feasts, giving gifts of food to friends and the poor. And the Jewish community observed all that Mordecai had said.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Mark 9:38-50

Bill Wallace

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to expel demons, and we tried to stop it since this person was not part of our group.”

Jesus said in reply, “Don’t try to stop it. No one performs a miracle using my name can speak ill of me soon thereafter! Anyone who is not against us is with us. The truth is, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not go without a reward.

“Rather than make one of these little ones who believe in me stumble, it would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It would be better to enter Life crippled than to have hands and go into Gehenna, where the fire never goes out. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter Life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It would be better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be drawn into Gehenna, where the worm never dies, and the fire never goes out.’

“Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good. But if salt loses its flavor, how can you make it salty again?

“Have salt in yourselves, and live in peace with one another.”

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

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

306

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

1 The church of Christ, in every age be -
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a

set by change, but Spir - it led, Must
vic - tims of in - jus - tice cry For
car - ing church that longs to be A

claim and test its her - i - tage and
shel - ter and for bread to eat, and
part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and

keep on ris - ing from the dead.
nev - er live be - fore they die.
clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

Poet Fred Pratt Green has been a chaplain, parish minister, administrator, and playwright. Since retiring from parish responsibilities in 1969, he has been an active hymnwriter and makes his home in Norwich, England.

Tune: WAREHAM L.M.
William Knapp, 1738

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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 and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Autumn Leaves" by Malcolm Swan

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Larry Metcalf

Born anew with the hope of your redeeming grace, O God, we come before you, bearing our gifts. Use them to spread abroad the good news that in Christ resides the promise of release from captivity, hope that peace can prevail among all your people, and assurance that you usher in the dawn of a new day. **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**

**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, or are our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil:**

**For yours is the kingdom, Kin-dom, realm and
dream, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

~Based on Matthew 6:9-13 NRSV



* Sending Hymn

478

I've Got Peace Like a River

Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 John 4:7-12

African-American spiritual

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.

Congregations or individuals may wish to add additional verses of their own making.

Most of the spirituals that drew from biblical stories and images used the Hebrew scriptures, rather than the New Testament, as their inspiration. The imagery of "peace like a river" derives from the book of Isaiah.

Tune: PEACE LIKE A RIVER 7.7.10.D.
 African-American spiritual

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

“Autumn” by Cecile Chaminade

Malcolm Swan, piano

Last Week’s Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 43 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 15 -Facebook Total Views: 135 --YouTube Views: 18

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,784 Electronic Giving: \$1,233

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$339,421

Neighbors in Need: \$297 Cumulative: \$387

--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.

His Provision, by Ivor Boasanko

Autumn Leaves, by Malcolm Swan

Autumn, by Cecile Chaminade

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Bloom Happenings This Week

| Monday Sept. 30 | Tuesday Oct. 1 | Wednesday Oct. 2 | Thursday Oct. 3 | Friday Oct. 4 | Saturday Oct. 5 | Sunday Oct. 6 |
|---|--|--|--|---|--------------------|---|
| 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 6:00pm Book Group on Zoom | 10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal 4:00pm Personality Group in the Office | 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 on Zoom | | 10:00am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live |

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Malcolm Swan** piano, and our **Pop-Up Choir** for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Larry Metcalf, Bill Wallace** and **Sean Villariosa**, 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, **Randy Zeese** and **Bob Patnode** for welcoming us this morning.

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

--Flowers on the **Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **George Uthall** and **Jean Brandt** in thanksgiving for Bloom’s on-line ministry.

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

--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.



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.

Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be November 13 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 **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: The next book will be Abundant Lives, A Progressive Christian Ethic for Flourishing, 2024 by Amanda Udis-Kessler

September 24th Start discussing the book that we chose on Zoom starting at 6:00pm.

Feel free to invite others to the Book Club.

Personality Study Group Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 pm in Bloom office from September 18--October

16. Introduction to the Enneagram: A Map for Spiritual Growth. Rev. Michael Schiefelbein, Instructor. The Enneagram is a psycho-spiritual system that describes the nine basic personality types and their interconnections. It traces the distinct path for each type to self-understanding, self-compassion, and the realization of its essential qualities. The course will begin with a diagnostic for participants to identify their types. We will use the book *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* by Don Riso and Russ Hudson. Participants can buy the book online or borrow a copy from Rev. Michael.

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 -- 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.



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