



Celebrating Black History Month

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

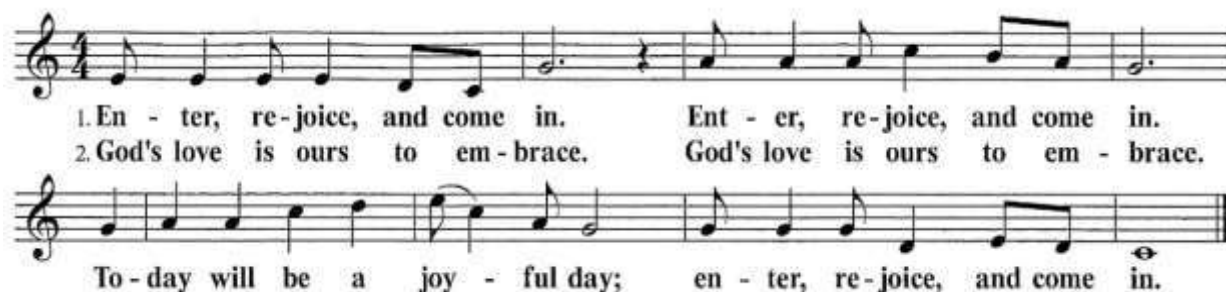
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” “The Church’s One Foundation”

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

”Kum Ba Ya”

Call to Worship

Mindy Harrington

We are called to live a walk of trust and invited to walk the Way of justice.

We gather for worship because we trust God is good. We disperse later to live trusting God’s love and direction for our journeys.

We pray to engage with God’s Spirit and sense the good God is doing.

**We will share with others from the bounty we are given,
transforming our lives into an expression of God’s goodness.**

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

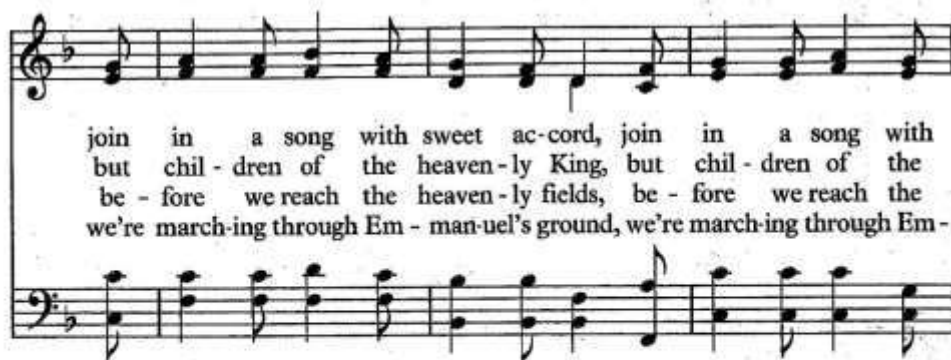
* Opening Hymn

733

Marching to Zion



1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
 4. Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac-cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heaven - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heaven - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march-ing through Em - man-uel's ground, we're march-ing through Em -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and
 heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may
 heaven - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to

thus sur-round the throne, and thus sur -
 speak their joys a - broad, may speak their
 walk the gold - en streets, to walk the
 fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1867

MARCHING TO ZION
 SM with Refrain

Refrain

thus sur-round the throne. We're march - ing to Zi - on,
 speak their joys a - broad. We're march - ing on to Zi - on,
 walk the gold - en streets.
 fair - er worlds on high.

round the throne.
 joys a - broad.
 gold - en streets.
 worlds on high.

beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on; we're march - ing up - ward to

Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.
 Zi - on, Zi - on, the

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this heartfelt prayer, aware of its purpose for transformation:

This month, we celebrate Black History Month and honor the culture of our brothers and sisters. We remember the legacy of those who came before us—who not only paved the way but carried the bricks on broken backs that then built that road. We remember the songs, stories, and fiery hope of old men and little girls, granny midwives and marvelous musicians, great orators and leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators—those who are earth-tone brown, black as night, fair like the sands of Egypt.... God, help us to value diversity beyond variety. Help us value diversity with a vision for a progressive future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, ideas, and part that we all bring Help us labor on until we all can sing, for good and right reasons: Oh happy day! Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Kierra Stuvland, Bread for the World.)

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 and converse with God. Relax, and enjoy the embrace of a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of peace, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

God who is our rock and our salvation promises and delivers strength for our journeys of trust and discipleship.

Amen! Blessing and praise to God forever.



Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

JR Rasch

YHWH says:

“Cursed are those who trust in human ways,
who rely on things of the flesh,
whose hearts turn away from YHWH.

They are like stunted vegetation in the desert,
with no hope in the future.
It stands in stony wastes in the desert,
an uninhabited land of salt.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God,
with God for their hope.

They are like a tree planted by the river
that thrusts its roots toward the stream.
When the heat comes it feels no heat;
its leaves stay green.
It is untroubled in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.

The human heart is more deceitful than anything else,
and desperately sick — who can understand it?

I, YHWH, search into the heart, I probe the mind,
to give to each person
what their actions and conduct deserve.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the Hebrew scripture reading.

* Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

Robert Van Dyke

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon— people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed,
for you’ll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed,
for you’ll laugh.

You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.

On the day they do so,
rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to the rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are full,
for you’ll go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you’ll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets
in the same way. (Inclusive Bible Version)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Response

All My Hope on God Is Founded

408

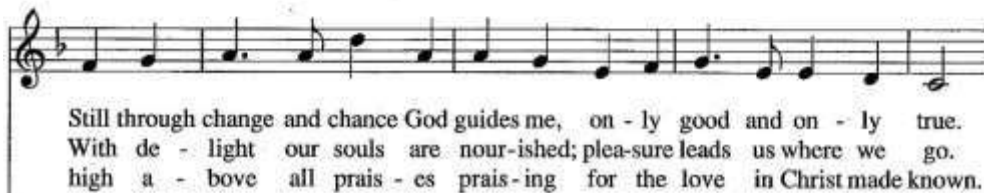
Joachim Neander, c. 1680

Ps. 62:5-8; 1 Tim. 6:17

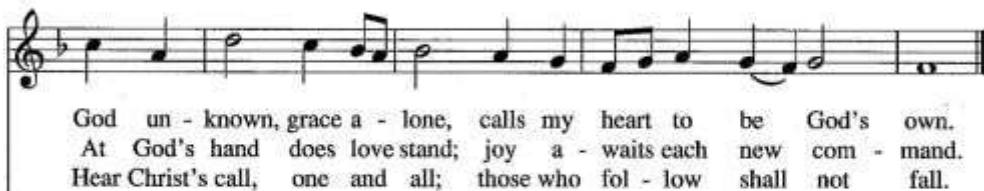
Paraphr. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; who else can my hope re-new?
2 Well does the al - might-y Giv - er boun-teous gifts on us be-stow!
3 In glad hymns to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done,



Still through change and chance God guides me, on - ly good and on - ly true.
With de - light our souls are nour-ished; plea-sure leads us where we go.
high a - bove all prais - es prais-ing for the love in Christ made known.



God un - known, grace a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
At God's hand does love stand; joy a - waits each new com - mand.
Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who fol - low shall not fall.



British composer Herbert Howells studied with Charles V. Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London and later taught there. The tune was composed for an English school and was named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

*Tune: MICHAEL. 8.7.8.7.3.3.7.
Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977*

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rev, Jeff Munnis

Concerns:

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.

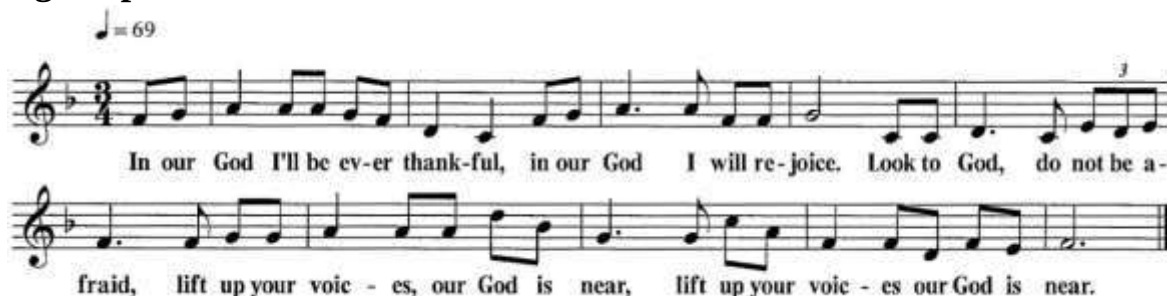
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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



Offertory-Meditation

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Mindy Harrington

God of deliverance, who in Christ brings soundness of mind, clarity to vision, wholeness of bodies, and wisdom to all we say and do, receive now the fruits of Christ's work in us. May what we give be used to make known Christ's healing presence, so that all may live with assurance of the new life you offer.

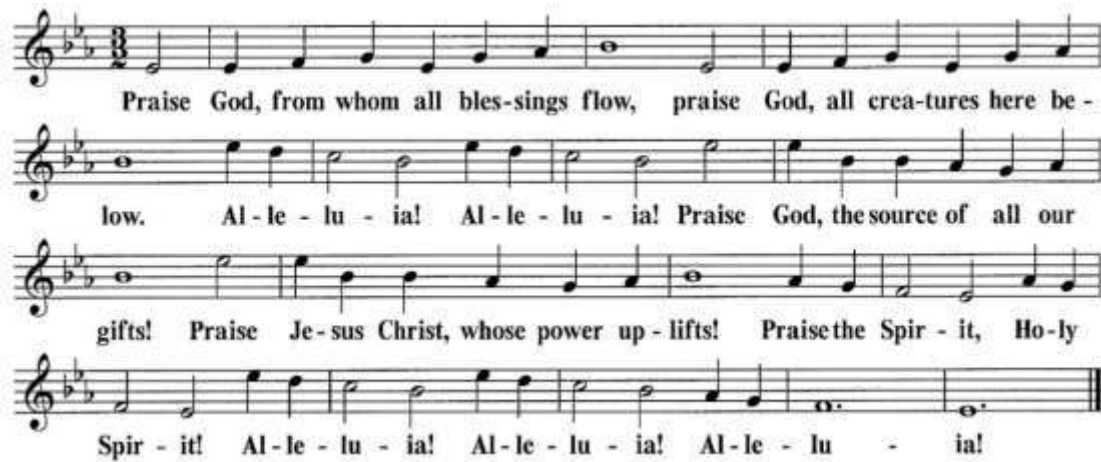
Amen.

~from "When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship", James G. Kirk, adapted

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

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis



**Our Father, our Eternal Source, our Mother,
our Creator, and our Parent in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom, your Kin-dom, your realm,
and your 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, the Kin-dom, the realm, the dream, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

* Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

Benediction

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Our worship has ended. Our service begins. What does God need from us?

Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

“God, help us to value diversity beyond variety. Help us value diversity with a vision for a progressive future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, ideas, and part that we all bring when we are all welcome —to come to the table and taste and see that our God is good. Help us labor on until we all can sing, for good and right reasons: O Happy day! Amen.”

~Kierra Stuvland, is a major gifts coordinator/development officer at Bread for the World., adapted

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

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”



Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Mindy Harrington, JR Rasch** and **Robert Van Dyke** 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, **Ray Allen** and **Mike Robinson**, 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 **Robert Parrish** in memory of his husband, **Richard Steele's** passing and in celebration of what would have been his 83rd birthday.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 68 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 11 --Facebook Total Views: N/A --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation: \$1,812

Permanence Fund: \$340 Cumulative: \$345,020

Spring Fling Reservations: 120 Goal: 180

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert UCC (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.

Lift Every Voice and Sing, by Johnson

The Church's One Foundation, arr. by Sanborn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, arr. by Sanborn.

Kum Ba Ya, African American spiritual

Great is thy Faithfulness, arr. by Berry.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, arr. by Smith

--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 Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be March 12 at 2:00 pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Only Bloom members have a vote. Contact **Rich Fluechtling** to receive the Zoom Invitation.

--**Congregation Meetings** are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is May 11 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**, dinoinps@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.

--For a prayer, please contact Brian Schimpf at prayer@bloominthedesert.org to be put on the prayer list"

Education Ministry

--The Bloom Book Club is discussing the book "Living Untethered, Beyond the Human Predicament" by Michael Singer and meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

For more information: Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com

--BibleBites with Rev. Jeff resumes on Wednesday, January 15 at 4:00 pm on Zoom.

For more information, contact Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com

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 for Students", 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.

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

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Feb. 17	Tuesday Feb. 18	Wednesday Feb. 19	Thursday Feb. 20	Friday Feb. 21	Saturday Feb. 22	Sunday Feb. 23
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist Presidents Day	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist 6:00pm Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul's Episcopal 4:00pm BibleBites 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 on Zoom		10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

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

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

The Bloom Book Club is discussing the book "Living Untethered, Beyond the Human Predicament" by Michael Singer. It meets on Tuesdays, at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

BibleBites with Rev. Jeff on Wednesdays,
at 4:00 pm on Zoom.



Bloom's 16th Annual Spring Fling

PARIS IS BLOOMING

Friday, March 21, 2025

Featuring Palm Canyon Theatre's
production of *Victor/Victoria*

The evening also includes
food/beverages, Jazz Band
& pre-show Silent Auction

Doors open 4:30pm
Performance starts 7pm
Palm Canyon Theatre
538 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs
\$95/person

Reservations and
donations online at
bloominthedesert.org



A Special Evening
Benefiting
**Bloom
in the
Desert**
United Church of Christ



Welcome

Bloom in the Desert (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. Bloom is governed congregationally according to our unique bylaws. All Bloom members and friends are ministers in our faith. Our Open Council 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

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — 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