

Transfiguration Sunday March 2, 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

Malcolm Swan, piano



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan, piano

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Call to Worship

Bill Phelps-Ramos

We are called to live a life of trust, invited to walk in the light of God's justice.

We gather for worship trusting God is good and nourishes us. We disperse later to reflect God's love and direction for our journeys.

We come together identified as people of the God who is one. We covenant to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. We sense God's Spirit leading us to do good well.

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

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

* Opening Hymn



WORDS: Katholisches Gesangbuch, ca. 1744; sts. 1, 2, 4 trans. by Edward Caswall, 1854; LAUDES DOMINI st. 3 by Robert S. Bridges, 1899
MUSIC: Joseph Barnby, 1868

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now is a time to accept the embrace of God found in openness and reconciliation: Gracious God, we thank you for the living blessings of our Bloom community and the United Church of Christ. You created this gathering from unique sources and form us with diverse qualities. We covenant with you and each other for the value of love. Help us every day be your Body alive, as Wordmade-flesh, always rising to heal and enhance your precious creation. We know you receive the prayers we offer silently and aloud. Strengthen us to power through barriers of fear, division, strife, injustice, and exclusion. Open us to see your presence in strangers, ourselves, family, and friends! Stir our hearts for new ministries and service. Motivate us to do justice, unite hearts, provide compassion, enable grace, educate minds, and agitate for peace. With the comfort and motivation of your Holy Spirit transforming our lives, we will work to live as your people! 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. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Compassionate creator of life and love, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

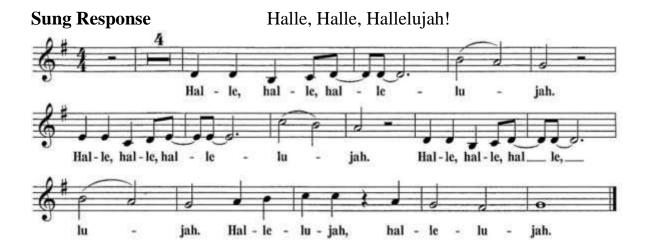
To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Mothering God, you hold us securely in your arms. When the power of evil rages around us, keep our hearts centered in you. Strengthen our confidence that the rule of the wicked is temporary but your love is forever. Amen.

Thanks be to God. Let us now receive the Word.



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Cindy Schimpf

With such hope we are very bold in what we say. And we are not like Moses, who covered his face with a veil to keep the Israelites from gazing at the radiance as it faded away. But their minds had been dulled, and to this day the same veil remains whenever the old Covenant is read—it has not been taken away, for only in Christ can it be removed. To this day whenever Moses is read, a veil covers their understanding.

But whenever anyone turns to our od, the veil is removed. Now our God is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of our God is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces reflect our God's glory, grow brighter and brighter as we are being transformed into the image we reflect. This is the work of our God, who is Spirit.

Therefore, because we have this ministry through God's mercy, we do not give in to discouragement. On the contrary, we renounce the shameful deeds that were kept hidden. We are not deceitful, nor do we adulterate the word of God. But by speaking the truth plainly, we commend ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the New Testament Reading.

About eight days after saying this, Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up onto a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory—and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let's set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!" Peter didn't really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice which said, "This is my Own, my Chosen One. Listen to him!"

When the voice finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone. (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

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.

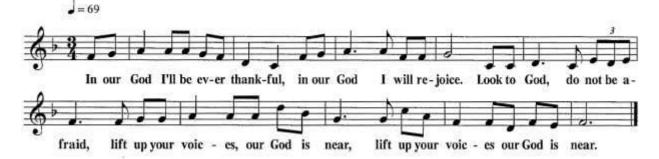
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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" 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

Malcolm Swan, piano

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Cindy Schimpf

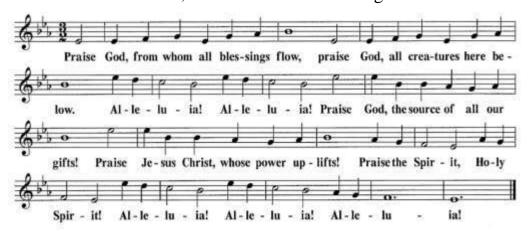
God of Moses and Elijah, of Christ and the disciples, we too could build you tents for devotion, but you would not be pleased. We could bring you burnt offerings, but you do not desire them. You ask us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. We are now before you, placing our lives in your service.

(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 Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. Rev. Jeff Munnis

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

<u>Cindy Schimpf:</u> It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars, and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)



Bill Phelps-Ramos: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God's people. Remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying,

"This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me."

<u>Cindy Schimpf:</u> After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said,

"This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me."

<u>Bill Phelps-Ramos:</u> Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of grain and grape, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus welcomed everyone present. We do this in remembrance of him. We do this historically... globally... personally.... For we believe Christ is the host. Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to come forward. If you wish to remain in your seat, you are welcome to relax and enjoy the music. If you wish to be served at your seat, please raise your hand as the line ends, so the servers will come to you. Now, let all who wish to come, come, for God's table is ready.

(After a moment, ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion.)

Communion Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming.

May your powerful presence become obvious not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also, in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth.

Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our existence to you.

We recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair.

Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.

Amen. (Progressive Christianity)

* Sending Hymn





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.

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

"Sunday Joy"

Malcolm Swan, piano



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30pm in the office and on zoom.

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88496514724?pwd=eN7pkeamw5FLz9Ybcv9yY4FJV3vkji.1

Congregational Life Announcements

- --A warm welcome and thank you to Malcolm Swan, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.
- **--Thank you, Bill Phelps-Ramos, Cindy Schimpf, and Brian Schimpf** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Cindy** and **Brian Schimpf** for joining in the Great Thanksgiving.
- -- Thank you to Jackson Enzler for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.
- -- Thank you also to our ushers, Megan and Jack Cassette for welcoming us this morning.
- -- Thank you to Logan 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 **Brian Schimpf** in memory of Brian's parents on the 83rd anniversary of their wedding.
- -- Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405 833-1817 for assistance.

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 56 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1 --- Facebook Live Views: 12 --Facebook Total Views: N/A --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$855 Electronic Giving: \$685
Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$345,020
Spring Fling Reservations: 132 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.

-- <u>The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation</u> 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.

All Things Bright and Beautiful, arr. by John Rutter

In Christ Alone, by Keith Getty, arr. by Carol Tornquist

Let Us Break Bread Together, Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Chuck Sinclair

Sunday Joy, by Mark Hayes

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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 February 9 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.

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 Mar. 3	Tuesday Mar. 4	Wednesday Mar. 5	Thursday Mar. 6	Friday Mar. 7	Saturday Mar. 8	Sunday Mar. 9
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 Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 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 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.

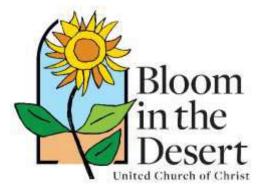
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BibleBiteS with Rev. Jeff meets on Wednesdays, at 4:00 pm on Zoom (no meeting on Ash Wednesday).

Open Council Meeting

March 12 ~ 2pm in the office and on zoom.





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