



Celebrating Women's History Month

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

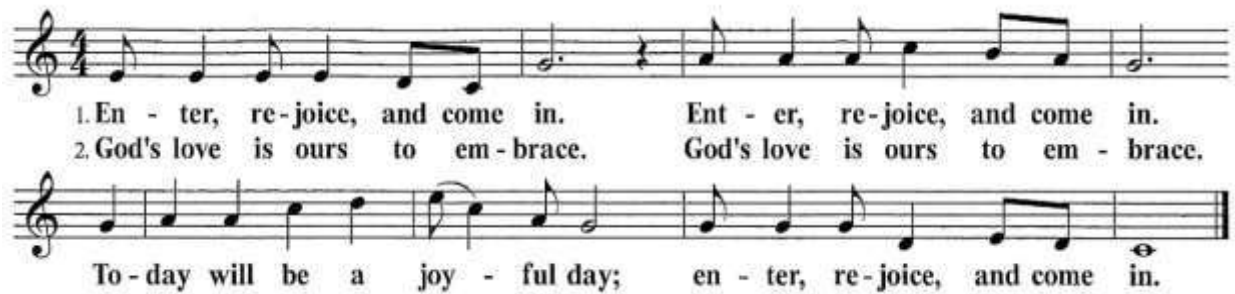
For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

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

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan, piano

Call to Worship

Lynda Toland

Lent is a journey of thought and reflection. Our faith journey keeps going as we live into our future. Wherever we go, we are always arriving in the presence of our living and compassionate God.

We gather now to sustain and inspire beloved community. We find common ground with friends. We recognize that we are called to bless one another with grace. We encourage each other to use this gathering time for renewal and growth.

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

* Opening Hymn

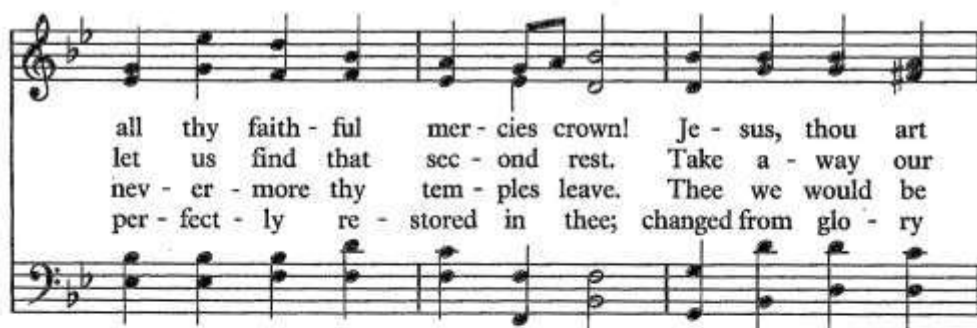
384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



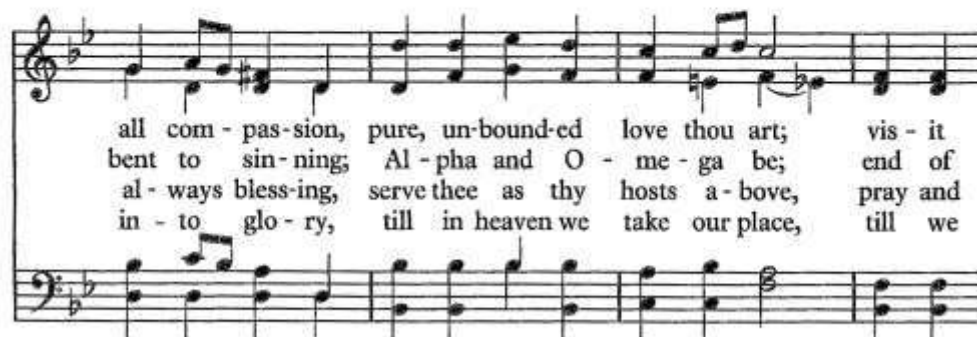
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion



all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry



all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL



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:

As we enter this prayerful moment, Eternal Source, we remember we do not always recognize Your presence. Some of us see homeless people and do not recognize Your light in their faces. We turn our backs to them in dread or disgust. Help us turn back with compassion and care. We are relieved when prison doors shut so we do not have to feel responsible for rehabilitation. Yet your Holy Spirit lives to ensure the comfort and betterment of all. We see TV news of real needs and war in our world, and then we change the channel to watch “reality” shows. We are nonchalant when friends and leaders call the “the least of these” the laziest of all. As we pray for the world we’ve passed by on the way here, help us never forget the good we’ve seen, even among the neediest and most annoying. Help us make real your dream for the good of all Creation. 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.)

Eternal Source of creativity and mercy, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

One fact remains that does not change: God loved you then, God loves you now and God will love you always. This is the Good News that offers us abundant life.

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

Psalm 32

Gerald Chester

Happiness comes from having your rebellion taken away,
from having your failure completely covered.

Happiness comes from YHWH not counting your mistakes,
from having nothing to hide.

As long as I kept my stubborn silence,
my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.

Day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped by summer's heat.

— Selah —

Finally I admitted my sin to you,
and stopped hiding my guilt.
I said, "I confess my rebellion, YHWH,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

— Selah —

That's why people of faith everywhere
should pray to you—they'll find you.
Even when the flood begins rising,
it will never touch them.

You are my hiding place;
you'll protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of freedom.

— Selah —

I'll teach you and show you the way you should walk;
I will counsel you,
and keep watch over you.

"Be wise! Don't be like horses and mules,
who need to be harnessed with bit and bridle
before they'll come to you."

Wrongdoers are prone to many sorrows,
but those who trust in YHWH
are surrounded with unfailing love.

Be glad in YHWH and rejoice, you who love justice!

Exult, you upright of heart!

~Inclusive Language Version

* Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Loretta Martin

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

“After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, “How many hired hands at my father’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I’ll quit and go back home and say, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.’” With that the younger son set off for home. “While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’ But the father said to one of the workers, ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we’ve been fattening and butcher it. Let’s eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found!’ And the celebration began.

“Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, ‘Your brother is home and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.’

“The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, ‘Look! For years now I’ve done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!’

“‘But my child!’ the father said. ‘You’re with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found.’”

~Inclusive Language Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Tim Rogers

Hymn of Response

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To God Be the Glory



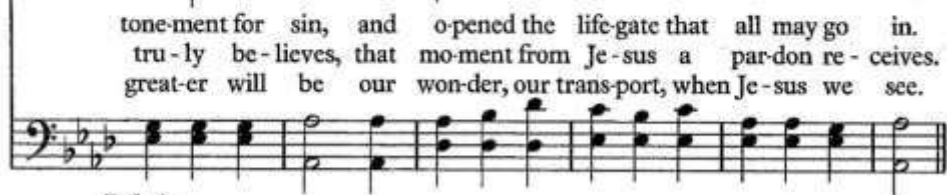
1. To God be the glo-ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the
2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev-ery be -
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -



world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
joic-ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high-er, and



tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.
tru-ly be-lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re - ceives.
great-er will be our won-der, our trans-port, when Je - sus we see.



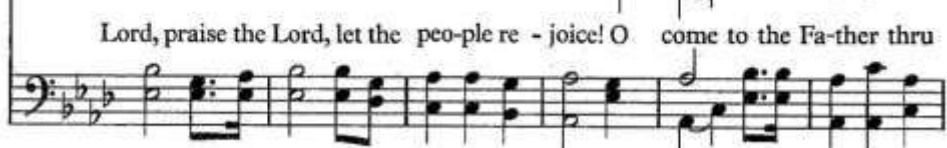
Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the



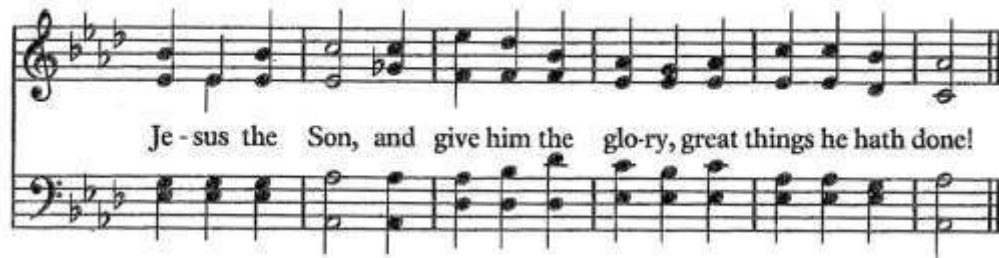
Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru



WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11 11.11 11 with Refrain

Continued on the following page.



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

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.

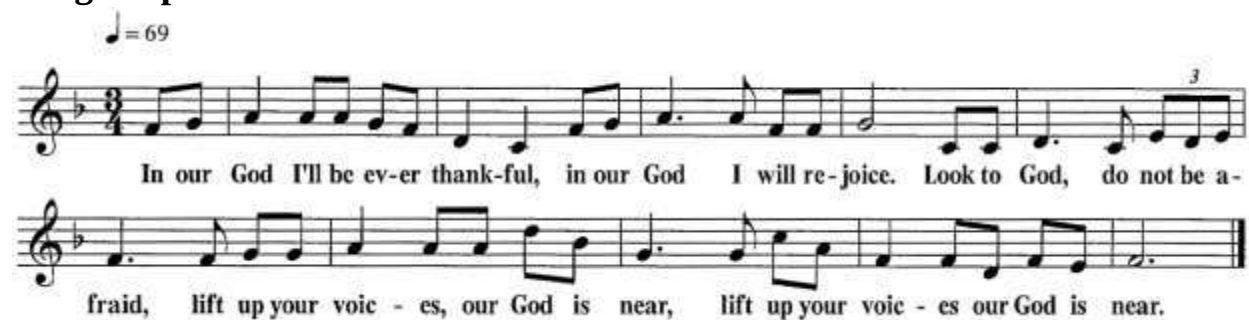
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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

Lynda Toland

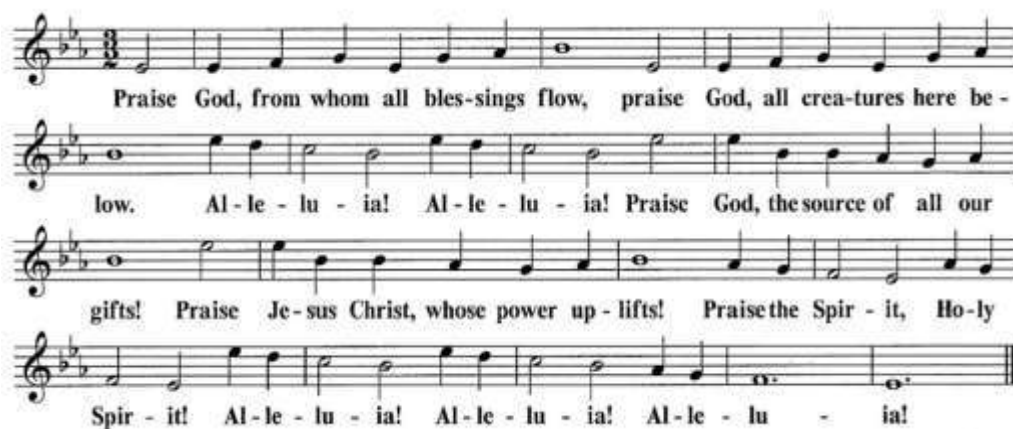
Refuge of those who put their trust in you, you do not seek vain sacrifice, nor will you hear empty praises. You take delight in contrite hearts that are ready to do your will. Accept our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, mingled with these tangible gifts that we willingly surrender. They are symbols of our response to your call to repentance and our earnest desire to become more faithful stewards. 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. Tim Rogers

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

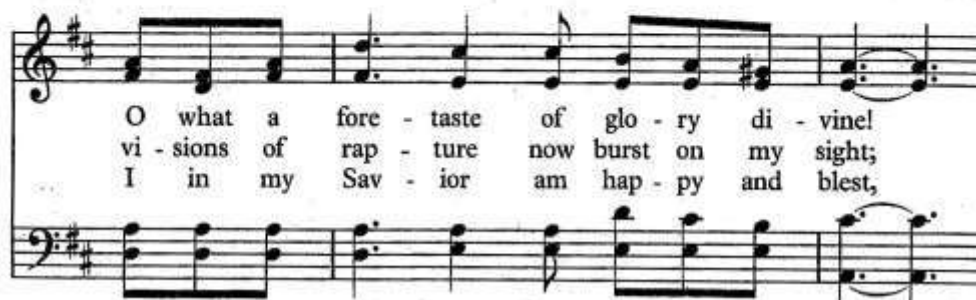
* Sending Hymn

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Blessed Assurance



1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine!
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light,
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;



O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine!
 vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;
 I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove,
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,



born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE
 9 10.9 9 with Refrain

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song,

The first line of the refrain is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staff.

prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

The second line of the refrain continues the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

this is my sto - ry, this is my song,

The third line of the refrain repeats the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

The fourth line of the refrain continues the melody and bass line from the second line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Benediction

Rev. Tim Rogers

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

Malcolm Swan, piano

The Rev'd Tim Rogers is a transplant to the desert from Boston, MA. He has a love of music and is a member of The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus. Tim has worked for over 20 years as an ordained Episcopal priest in parish, hospital, and hospice settings. Tim is a former staff member of Easton Mountain Gay Men's Retreat Center in upstate New York. He is currently an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist at Hope and Healing Counseling, here in Palm Springs. Tim has worked for the empowerment and integration of body, mind, and spirit of the LGBTQ+ communities for most of his adult life.

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Lynda Toland**, **Gerald Chester** and **Loretta Martin** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Ray Allen** for serving as worship leader today and a special thank you to **Rev. Tim Rogers** for providing our commentary today.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Gary Lange** and **Robert Van Dyke** 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 **Jim Nixon** in appreciation for all the Spring Fling volunteers and supporters.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 69 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 15 --Facebook Total Views: N/A --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Total offerings \$4,188

--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.

--**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 April 9 at 2:00 pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Only council 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 18 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: meets Tuesdays, at 6pm on Zoom. We will be discussing our new book, "Falling Upwards" Zoom link:

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

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 31	Tuesday April 1	Wednesday April 2	Thursday April 3	Friday April 4	Saturday April 5	Sunday April 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 Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		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.

Bloom Book Club Selection — "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life Study Guide" by Richard Rohr. The book study will start on Tuesday March 25 at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

I would suggest reading the Introduction for our discussion the first night.

For more information contact Gary Lange at garylange13@gmail.com

Below is the Zoom link.

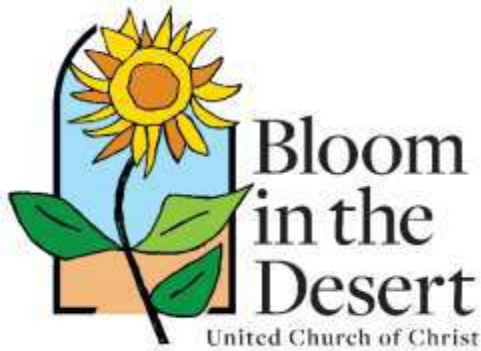
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Open Council Meeting

April 9 ~ 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
On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951-663-7261 — rflangx25@gmail.com
Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org
Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassistant@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