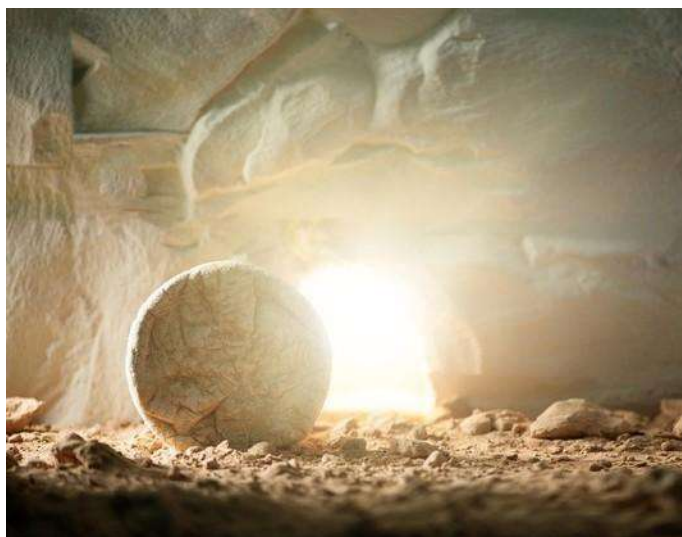




Bloom in the Desert
United Church of Christ
Palm Springs, CA
Easter 10am Service

April 20, 2025

Please be seated.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Mike Goldman and Cliff Lyons, trumpets
Malcolm Swan, piano

Remain seated.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

Remain seated.

Music for Centering

“Amazing Grace”

Buddy Sizemore

Please stand, as you are able.

Call to Worship

Larry Metcalf

Shalom — Peace.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

What brings us together?

We come seeking joy, though we find the place still shrouded.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for Jesus, the reformer who was executed because his message said love wins. He was buried and now we heard the tomb is empty. We hope the message will live on.

We will set our mind on actions of love and listen for the still-speaking voice of God. With Jesus, we rise to BE goodness in the world. Please stand as you are able, as we declare...

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

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

Remain standing, as you are able.

Opening Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

245

*John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.*

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Please be seated.

Prayer for Good and Growth

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

Eternally Creating God, even though you promise us life everlasting, our vision becomes clouded by death repeatedly. We are overwhelmed by the shadows, the despair, and the injustices of life – oftentimes overlooking the hope and promise your love gives all. While we continue to experience struggle and emptiness, help us to be aware that your love will set us free to believe that more is possible – life, abundantly – as Jesus came to say. Hear us now as we pray in silence. We give you our awareness and our thanksgiving. Amen.

~Rev. Greg Dell, adapted.

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

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.)

To all of our silent prayers let the people say Amen.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Words of Assurance

Our eternal assurance is that God never gives up on us. We are invited always to begin again.

Amen! Let us now receive the Word.

Please remain seated.

Sung Response:

Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Please remain seated.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14, 17-24

JR Rasch

I thank you, YHWH for your goodness
Your love is everlasting!

Let (everyone) say it.

Your love is everlasting.

God is my strength and my song;
God has become my salvation!

No, I will not die—

I will live to proclaim the deeds of YHWH;
though YHWH has disciplined me often,
I am not abandoned to Death.

Open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, YHWH!

This is the gate of YHWH,
and only the upright can enter!

Thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

It was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;

this is YHWH's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

This is the day YHWH has made—
let us celebrate with joy!

(Inclusive Bible Version)

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture Reading.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Brian Schimpf

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled back from the tomb; but when they entered the tomb, they didn't find the body of Jesus.

While they were still at a loss over what to think of this, two figures in dazzling garments stood beside them. Terrified, the women bowed to the ground. The two said to them, "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? Jesus is not here; Christ has risen. Remember what Jesus said to you while still in Galilee—that the Chosen One must be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified, and on the third day would rise again." With this reminder, the words of Jesus came back to them.

When they had returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but the story seem like nonsense, and they refused to believe them. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. He stooped down but could see nothing but the wrappings. So he went away, full of amazement at what had occurred. ~Inclusive Bible Version

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Please be seated.

Easter Commentary

Rev. Tim Rogers

Remain seated.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

Prayers of Concern, followed by...

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.

Prayers of Joys and Thanksgivings, followed by...

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. Amen.

Remain seated.

Sung Response

$\text{♩} = 69$



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 voices, our God is near, lift up your voices our God is near.

Remain seated.

Offering Our Gifts — Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

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. **You may use the QR Code at right to donate.**

Online giving is available and easy! Go to: www.bloominthedesert.org and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Remain seated.

Offertory-Meditation Music

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer, soloist, Doug Holder, piano

"Share the Easter Joy" by Patterson

Remain seated.

Prayer of Dedication

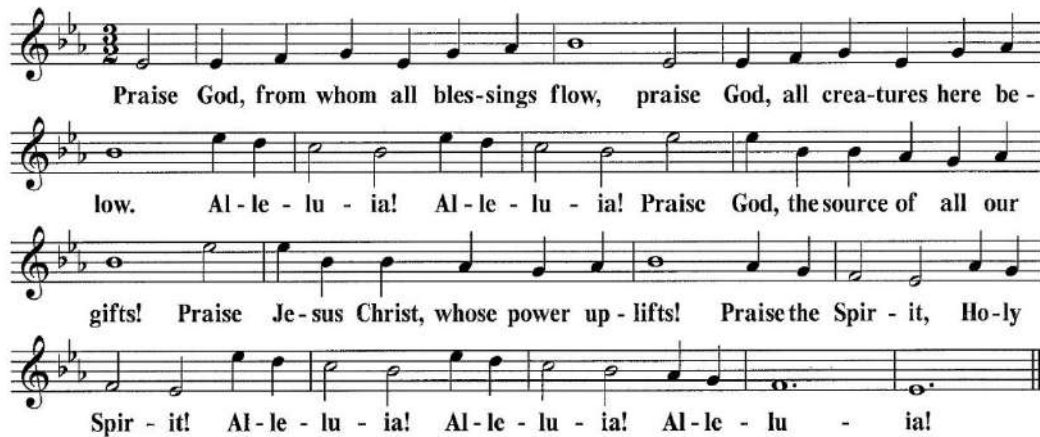
Lynda Toland

On this holy day, receive our offerings as an affirmation of our commitment to be your faithful disciples. Strengthen our ability to be gifted stewards of your created world. We pray in the name of the Resurrected One, Christ Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

Please stand, as you are able.

Doxology and Presentation of Offerings

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

Rev. Tim Rogers

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.

Lynda Toland: 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, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Carl Toland: 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.”

Lynda Toland: 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.”

Carl Toland: 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. Tim Rogers

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

"Welcome, Happy Morning"
by Scriveyner

Malcolm Swan, piano

Please be seated.

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

Please stand, as you are able.

Sending Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**“Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!
Spices rich, an offering, Alleluia!
Asking where my Jesus be, Alleluia!
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!**

**There the angel clothed in white, Alleluia!
Tells the news with great delight, Alleluia!
This the news the angel gives, Alleluia!
That the sovereign gloriously lives, Alleluia!**

**“Hasten now to Galilee,” Alleluia!
“Tell the others what you see!” Alleluia!
With excitement trembling, Alleluia!
Off we run the Good News to bring, Alleluia!**

Please be seated.

Benediction

Rev. Tim Rogers

Mutual Blessing

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Our worship is 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 to share loving compassion and hope for justice with 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!

Please stand.

Passing of the Peace

Let us offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

Remain standing.

Postlude

Mike Goldman and Cliff Lyons, trumpets

Congregational Life Announcements

Today's Service

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Buddy Sizemore**, and **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer**, our soloists today, and to **Doug Holder**, on the piano, and **Mike Goldman**, and **Cliff Lyons**, trumpets for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Larry Metcalf**, **JR Rasch** and **Brian Schimpf** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Lynda** and **Carl Toland** for assisting with the Communion part of our service. Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** for handling the technical aspects for today's broadcast. Thank you to **Logan** for setting up our service today.

Thank you also to **Randy Zeese** and **Pamela Robinson** for serving as our ushers this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Buddy Sizemore** in memory of his sister, Ginger.

--Those wishing to donate flowers for our worship center, please contact Ray Allen at 405-833-1817.

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth Center: 48 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--Facebook Live Viewers: 18 --Facebook Total Views: N/A --YouTube Page Views: N/A

Stewardship Update

--Previous Week's Support: Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:
Offerings: \$7,004

Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly online giving page or visit www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate.



--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards Card**. Choose Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Ralphs #PG245.) as your designated charity for both programs to benefit from a small percentage of your purchase totals. Every little bit helps!

Perhaps you want to remember Bloom in your estate's will, trust, or other personal legacy plan as support for Bloom's long-term mission and vitality. Bloom's **Sunflower Legacy Circle** welcomes your participation. Please contact **Paul Gibb**, or our church office for more information. Privacy and discretion will be maintained. Thank you for remembering.

--**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.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be June 11 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**, dinoinsps@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 April 21	Tuesday April 22	Wednesday April 23	Thursday April 24	Friday April 25	Saturday April 26	Sunday April 27
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		10:00am 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 on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

"We will be discussing Chapter 4."

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

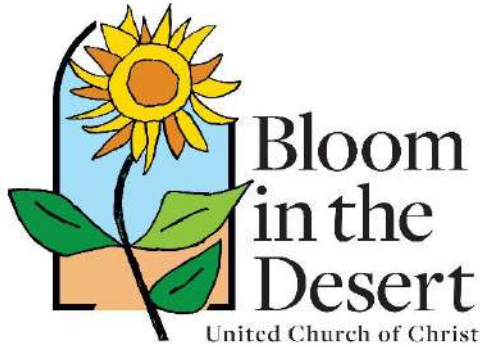
Below is the Zoom link.

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

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Congregation Meeting

Sunday, May 18 ~ after the service in the hospitality room
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