

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

July 20, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

“The gospel of grace calls out: Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God. You must be convinced of this, trust it and never forget to remember. Everything else will pass away, but the love of Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Faith will become vision, hope will become possession, but the love of Jesus Christ that is stronger than death will last forever. In the end, it is the one thing that you can hang onto.”

Brennan Manning in The Ragamuffin Gospel

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

His Wonderful Love We Proclaim

(Thomson)

**Call to Worship*

(Written by Moira Laidlaw)

Leader: Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

People: *Happy are those to whom God attributes no wrong, those in whose heart there is no deceit.*

Leader: When we keep silent about our wrongdoings, our lives disintegrate with worry and guilt.

People: *When we struggle to hide from God, the heaviness in our hearts consumes our strength.*

Leader: But when we seek your truth, O God, and acknowledge our sin, we experience your forgiveness.

People: *Let all people reach out to you in prayer, O God, and know your protection and strength.*

Leader: Surrounded by your grace-filled presence and filled with your undeserved forgiveness, we sing your praise; we shout for joy.

People: *Stubbornness melts away and tempers are controlled; when we listen for God's word and follow God's direction for our lives.*

Leader: When we fail to listen, and persist in following other than God's way, our hearts are hardened and our lives tormented.

People: *When we put our trust in God, we are surrounded and filled with God's steadfast love.*

ALL: *Rejoice and shout for joy all those who are upright in heart.*

**Hymn of Praise*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#73

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from Waysidechurch.org)

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

Silent Confession

Prayer Response

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

306

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

**Congregational Response*

Gloria Patri

35

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace*

Call to Offering

Offertory

What a Friend

(arr. Schrader)

**Doxology*

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Come Home

(Courtney)

Sermon

"Welcome Home"

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn*

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

#339

**Charge and Benediction*

**Closing Response*

Peace Go with You

(Nolan)

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Mighty Warrior *with* Lead on, O King Eternal (arr. Tornquist), Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (arr. Parks) Hallelujah! Thine the Glory (McDonald)

Time of Reflection: Grace Greater than Our Sin (Towner)

Postlude: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (#91)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Fellowship: Ina Spaeth and Julie Brethower

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Diane Spang, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Jared Reisinger

Tellers: Terri Meyers and Jan Stegmann

Ushers: Barbara Rago and Pat Strachan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome members and guests! If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by our badge table for a welcome gift. Visit our website www.verdefaith.org for additional information. **Please complete the Fellowship Pad** at the end of each pew; pass it along, and back. **Fellowship is held following worship** in Founders Hall.

Attendance at last Sunday's service was 72; 214 joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Pat Strachan: In loving remembrance of her husband Doug.

Stephen Ministers are trained, ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help through a crisis or difficult time. Contact one of our Leaders, Donna Angiolillo, Glenda Hage, Debbie Etcheson, John Pasnau, Dan or Judy Villanueva.

In need of prayers for you, your family, or friends? Contact Joan Brunner at 480-471-7274, or Pastor Cathy with requests, or if you would like to serve on the team.

AA meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 8:00 am in the library.

PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the library. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.
Meetings have concluded for the season.

SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

Pastor Cathy holds monthly book discussions on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the library. **Aug. 13: The Women.**

PHOTO DIRECTORY ANNOUNCEMENT

A Big Thank You to the 138 folks who have shared a photo for our new church directory! We are looking for 25 more photos to meet our goal of 40% prior to the launch. If your travels provided photo opportunities, please share your favorite. Photos can be sent to Tami at officemanager@verdefaith.org or can be uploaded directly through the link on our website under Membership, then "Time and Talent Survey".






FLOWER DONATIONS

We have a few spots left for summer if you would like to donate flowers. The following dates are available: **July 27th, August 3rd and August 24th.** Please let Tami Burke, Office Manager, know if you would like to sign up for any of the available dates. You can stop by the office, email at officemanager@verdefaith.org or call 480-471-7239.



Mission Drives: The Mission Committee is grateful to everyone who donated to our Monthly Mission Drives for various charities during the season. We will continue to collect food for the Extended Hands Food Bank and FHCMA Food Closet throughout the summer.

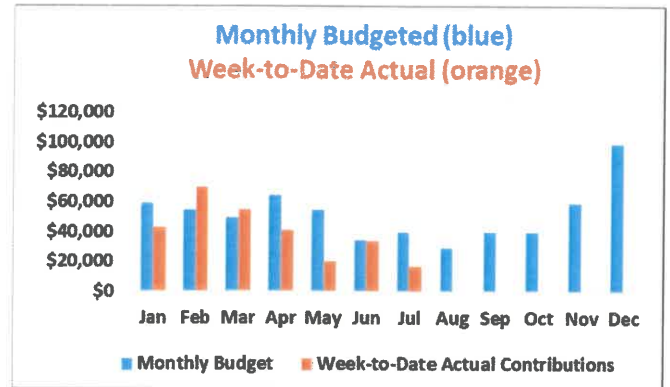
MISSIONS

-  **Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center:** The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am.
-  **FHCMA Food Closet:** toothpaste, canned fruit, Saltine, and Ritz crackers.
-  **Extended Hands Food Bank:** non-perishable food items.
-  **Pad Project Ministry:** *will resume in the Fall.*
-  **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** *will resume in the Fall.*

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through July 13 were
\$283,366

YTD Budgeted contributions
through July 13 were
\$340,000



Thank you for your continuing support!

Please consider these other funds open to special giving in your estate planning...

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$355,820

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, to initiate new ministries or significantly change the scope of existing ministries. No more than 5% of the three year average fund assets may be distributed in any one year.

Memorial Garden Fund – current balance \$466,290

The purpose of the Memorial Garden Fund is to provide for the perpetual operation and maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Established in 1990, the Memorial Garden provides a resting place for the interment of the ashes of loved ones. It is open to current and former members and residents of Rio and Tonto Verde.

Scholarship Fund – current balance \$10,142

The Scholarship Fund promotes scholarships among young people involved in institutions we support through Mission giving. Recipients are chosen from applicants who are demonstrating academic excellence, commitment, and service in or to one of the following non-profit institutions or community: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), NPH (formerly Friends of the Orphans), Sunshine Acres. The Scholarship Fund's sole support is contributions from our members. Donors cannot be related to recipients.

Did you know?... If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift from your IRA to support the church. It will not add to your federal taxable income; It counts toward your required minimum distribution, and allows you to experience a tax benefit, even if you do not itemize deductions. You should discuss any such gifts, before making them, with your financial advisor.

The church is very appreciative of gifts from trusts, foundations, and stocks. Occasionally, these gifts are received with no indication of who the donor is. So that we may properly recognize and record the gift, we ask that you either notify the church office or have your financial representative document the donor {and intent} when it is sent to us.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, July 21

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, July 22

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, July 23

4:00pm Trio Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, July 24

No activities scheduled

Friday, July 25

No activities scheduled

Saturday, July 26

No activities scheduled

Sunday, July 27

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

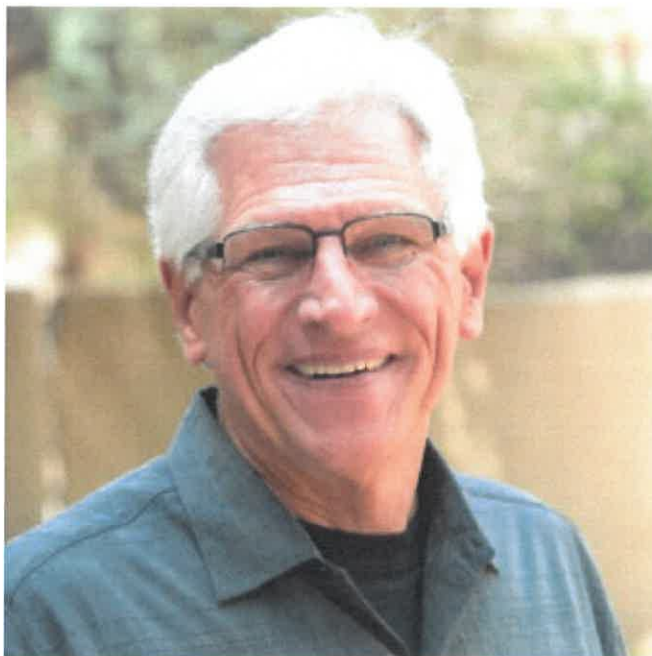
9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

ABOUT OUR GUEST PASTOR

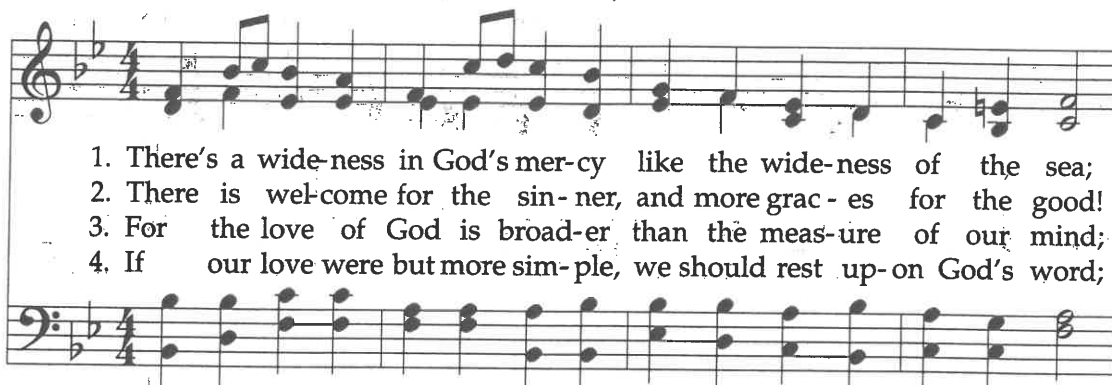
Dr. Rick Efird serves as the Director of Pastoral Support at Phoenix Seminary. In this role, he seeks to encourage pastors, to connect them with other ministry leaders and to resource them for more effective ministry. He previously served in pastoral ministry for almost 40 years.

Rick's academic training includes a BA in Biology from Bryan College, a ThM in pastoral ministry from Dallas Theological Seminary and a DMin from Phoenix Seminary. Rick invests his training and experience in developing other leaders in the church and in the marketplace. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, he assisted in founding Phoenix Seminary, has taught as an adjunct professor, served on the Board and was the interim president in the early years of the school. He has led volunteer teams to build homes for orphans in Africa and has assisted in training Christian leaders in Russia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rick also invests in leaders in the marketplace by serving on the National Board of Directors for Convene, a peer group for Christian CEOs and business owners who strive for business performance with eternal perspective. Rick and his wife, Emily, have been married for 52 years and have two sons, one daughter-in-law and two grand-children. Rick and Emily enjoy traveling abroad, visiting family in Tennessee and North Carolina and exploring the great state of Arizona. Rick loves spending time with other men doing outdoor sports like hunting, fishing and golf.

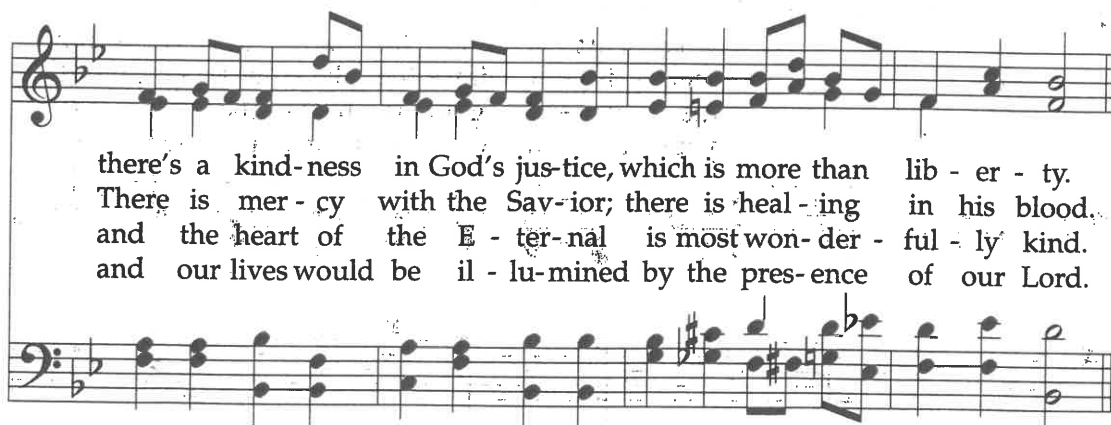


There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

73



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood,
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854

MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

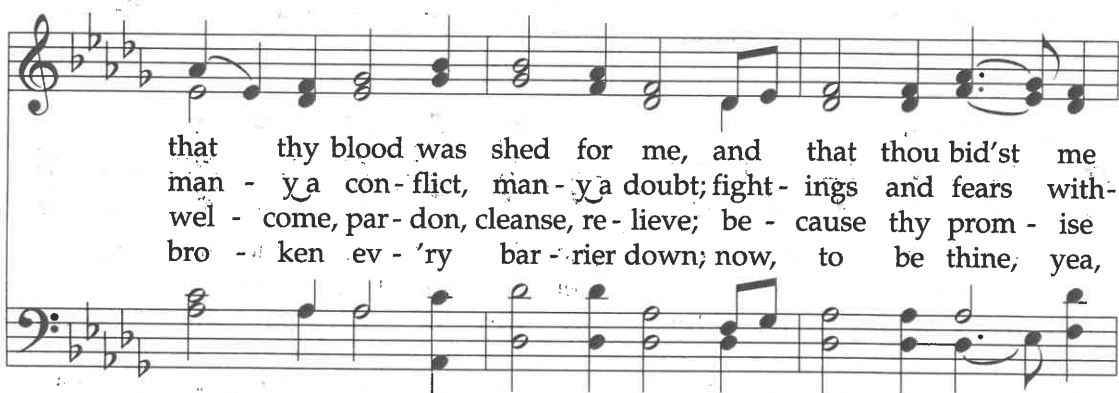
WELLESLEY

87.87

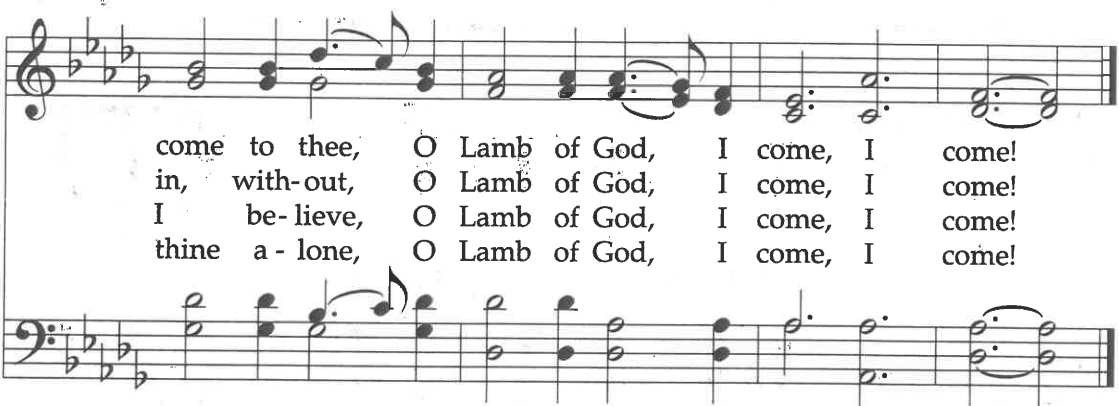
Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with
 3. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive; wilt
 4. Just as I am, thy love un - known, hast



that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me
 man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt; fight - ings and fears with -
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 bro - ken ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now, to be thine, yea,



come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1835
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

WOODWORTH
 LM



Vision Statement

*To be a Christ centered church that inspires individuals to grow closer to God
and to serve others with loving and compassionate hearts.*

Faith Statement ~ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Community Church of the Verdes

*25603 Danny Lane, Suite 1
Rio Verde, Arizona 85263*

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday 9:00am—12:30pm

Telephone: (480) 471-7239

www.verdefaith.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathy Northrup

Pastor's cell: (480) 322-0183

Pastor's email: pastor@verdefaith.org

Director of Music: Tom Wojtas

Office Manager: Tami Burke

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

Board of Trustees

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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"