

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

August 31, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

First words and last words.....Consider C.S. Lewis' The Voyage of the Dawn Treader's, "His name was Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it." Or Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities', "It was the best of times and worst of times." That got me to thinking about famous last words. Harriet Tubman's "Swing low, sweet chariot." Benjamin Franklin's, "A dying man can do nothing easy." Groucho Marx's, "This is no way to live!" And Elvis Presley's "I'm going to the bathroom to read." But how often do famous first last words echo famous first words? Among Revelation's first words is "grace" (1:4). Among its last words is also "grace" (22:21). There's a beginning and end to which you and I can give our lives.

Doug Bratt

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Spirit Song

#352

**Call to Worship*

(Adapted from re: Worship)

*Leader: Grace and peace to you from the One who is, who always was
and who is still to come -*

People: the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and end.

Leader: This is our God -

*People: the One who loves us, and who gave himself for us; who
gathers us together in this place, and bids us seek his face.*

ALL: Let us worship God together!

**Hymn of Praise*

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

#611

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from re: Worship)

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, and the promise of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. ...

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**

Recognition of Retirement

(Pastor Cathy Northrup, having turned 65 on August 30th, 2025 will officially retire as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA and as the minister of this church on September 1, 2025. We recognize that today. Please join in the ritual goodbye and join the Fellowship Hour following worship in Founders Hall to personally greet her.)

Pastor: *I thank you, the members and friends of Community Church of the Verdes for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask for forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have I learned here.*

Congregation: ***We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave this church to retire. We express gratitude for your time among us. We ask for your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.***

Pastor: *I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor, Steve Beard.*

President of the Board: (Let us pray.)

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to Everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trio Sings 1st Verse

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

#433

Call to Offering

Offertory

A Day Will Come

(arr. Duren)

**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

Revelation 1:17-18

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

(arr. Rouse)

Sermon

"Do Not Be Afraid"

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn*

Here I Am, Lord

#452

**Charge and Benediction*

**Closing Response*

Irish Blessing

(arr. Chilcot)

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Beethoven), Truth Abideth (Handel), The Prayer *with* Lead Us, Lord (arr. Fettke)

Time of Reflection: All Creatures of Our God and King (arr. Carter)

Postlude: All the Way My Savior Leads Me (#559)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Kathy and Alex Stamey

Fellowship: Fellowship Committee

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

Lector: Tom Mulleady

Tellers: Tom Spaeth and Judy Sevier

Ushers: Denny & Terri Meyers

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 **80**; **272** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Donna Angiolillo: With love and gratitude honoring Pastor Cathy Northrup.

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.

PHOTO DIRECTORY ANNOUNCEMENT






We now have 42% of the membership photos for the new directory! Thank you for participating. Our next goal is 50%. Join the fun travel photos, the warm smiles taken after church on Sunday or schedule a photo session after church or in your AZ home. Tami will be able to direct you via email or a call. Photos can be sent to Tami @ officemanager@verdefaith.org or can be uploaded directly through the link on our website under Membership, the "Time and Talent Survey".

FLOWER DONATIONS

We have a few spots left in September if you would like to donate flowers. The following dates are available: September 21st and 28th. 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.

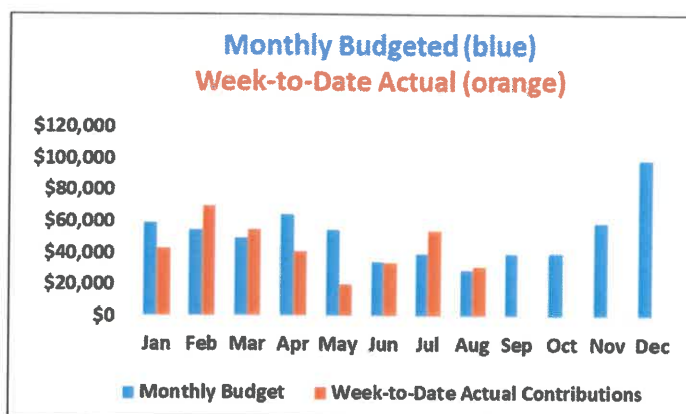
MISSIONS

-  **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 August 24 were
\$352,541

YTD Budgeted contributions
through August 24 were
\$384,000



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, September 1—Office is closed

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, September 2

New Pastor Steve Beard starts

Wednesday, September 3

4:00pm Trio Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 4

No activities scheduled

Friday, September 5

No activities scheduled

Saturday, September 6

No activities scheduled

Sunday, September 7

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

PLEASE WELCOME NEW PASTOR STEVE BEARD

The Call Committee is pleased to announce that Pastor Steve Beard's first Sunday will be September 7th. Please join us in welcoming him and his wife Julie during fellowship in Founders Hall following the service. For more information about Pastor Steve and the Call Committee's journey to call him, please view a brief power point on our church website, available at <https://verdefaith.org/about-us/meet-new-pastor-steve-beard>. Opportunities for small groups to meet with Pastor Steve and Julie will be scheduled this fall. Announcements regarding dates/times to sign up for this will be made in the bulletin and through email. Thank you for your continued prayers during our search and during this transition for our church.

PASTOR CATHY'S NEW EMAIL

The pastor's new email is cnret2025@gmail.com

All emails sent to her at church will be automatically forwarded to her, or you can simply use this email directly.

PASTOR CATHY'S CELEBRATION TODAY!

*The Community Church of the Verdes invites you to join us in celebrating Pastor Cathy Northrup's retirement today, **Sunday, August 31st**.*

Fellowship time with a light breakfast will follow in Founders Hall. Please come and celebrate her 14 years as our Pastor!



Rise Up, O Saints of God!

611

1. Rise up, O saints of God! Have done with less - er things;
 2. Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom tar - ries long.
 3. Rise up, O saints of God! The church for you doth wait,
 4. Lift high the cross of Christ; tread where Christ's feet have trod;

give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
 Bring in the day of righ-teous-ness, and end the night of wrong.
 with strength un-equal to the task; rise up and make it great.
 come sis-ters, broth-ers in the faith, rise up, O saints of God.

WORDS: William P. Merrill, 1911, alt.
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894

FESTAL SONG
 SM

452

Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

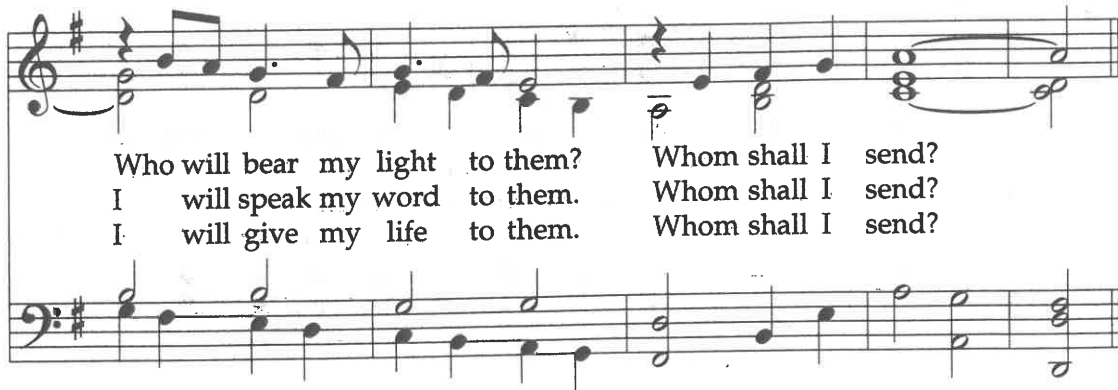
All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro- vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

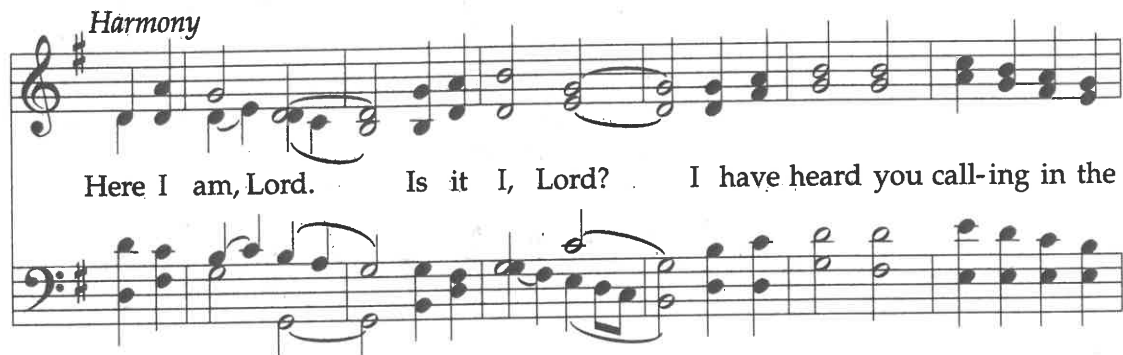
MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 w. refrain



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the



night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will



hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart, in my heart.



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—closed
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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Gary Etcheson (Facilities)
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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"