

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

June 29, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

There are nine fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5, and self-control anchors the list. But in addition to being the last Christian virtue listed by Paul, self-control stands out on that list as being the only fruit that seems to be more inwardly directed. That is, love, gentleness, kindness, and the rest are traits that are primarily focused on other people. Self-control, however, is more of an inward discipline for any given individual. Although it will issue in certain outward behaviors that will affect others, this fruit very much begins inside one's own heart, soul, and mind. It may also be true, however, that the person who lacks this final fruit will find it very hard to express all the other fruit insofar as those who lack self-control and its attendant spiritual and physical disciplines frequently over-indulge in aspects of life in ways that make such a person rather unkind, unloving, and selfish. There are a couple of Greek words in the New Testament translated as "self-control." The word used in Galatians 5 and its list of spiritual fruit is *egkrates*, which seems to mean, quite literally, "in control." The idea of "self-control" crops up the most, however, in the pastoral epistles and mostly in Paul's letter to Titus. There the word is *sophrono*, and that word has the curious meaning of "to be in one's right mind." The *sophronos* person is in control of himself in the sense of not going "wild and crazy" in over-indulging in life's pleasures. On the island of Crete where Titus ministered, the Cretan people were renowned for their gluttonous excesses of all kinds. Their besetting sins were mostly appetitive in nature and marked by too much food, too much drink, too much sex. By contrast, Paul recommends sobriety in the sense of being in one's right mind, which is the mindset with which God created us to begin with. The self-controlled person respects life's boundary lines and so knows that although there may be nothing wrong with enjoying a cocktail or two with friends, enjoying too many cocktails leads to drunkenness and out-of-control speech and behavior. The self-controlled person is also the one who knows that God has certain places in life where sexuality belongs and certain places where it does not belong, that some foods are good for you (or allowable in moderation) while others wreck health one bite at a time. Self-control is simple sanity, the opposite of the insane binges of over-indulgence that are the hallmarks of people who are — as my mother used to describe certain people — "out of their ever-loving minds." C.S. Lewis once said that lots of people seem to think that sanctification is like training a horse to run a little faster, whereas in reality sanctification is more like outfitting a horse with wings and teaching it how to fly. Sanctification is meant to be a major transformation, in other words, not a self-improvement project. Self-control is one of the Spirit's fruits and tools that enables this transformation to happen across a believer's life. Self-control makes us check our tongues/speech (à la James) so that we are temperate in what we say, not shying away from telling the truth but seeking to tailor our speech to help it build others up instead of tearing them down. Self-control helps us keep promises (in marriage, family, friendship, work) by helping us check ourselves against taking quick and easy shortcuts or opportunities for engaging in self-indulgent pleasures we ought not pursue. Self-control is finally also what allows us to be renewed in the image of God through Christ (the express image of God par excellence) by helping us revel in the good way God set up the creation, recognizing that there are good things to enjoy and engage in (activities, foods, drinks, sexuality, sports, entertainment) so long as they all respect the boundary markers God set up to promote our flourishing and protect us from harm. "Self-control is a lot like controlling an orchestra. There are some powerful players down there inside of me — passions, desires, angers, sex drives, terrors of memories past and threats to come, and a lot more. My job is to set them free to play their parts. But if I let any one of them take charge, I would not have an orchestra; what I would have is a bunch of soloists on a binge."

Zeteo Preaching and Worship

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Here We Gather as God's People

#294

**Call to Worship*

(Adapted from re: Worship)

Leader: May God, who began a good work in us, continue to be at work in our lives, guiding, teaching and equipping us until Jesus Christ returns.

*People: **May our love and compassion continue to grow— a love that is full of knowledge and wise insight, so that we will be able to recognize what really matters, live a pure and blameless life.***

Leader: May we live lives centered in the Holy Spirit, lives that bear rich fruit— love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—all the good things that come from following the Spirit, for living this way will bring much glory and praise to God.

*All: **Let us worship God now in all of our lives!***

**Hymn of Praise*

Blessed Assurance

#543

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from re: Worship)

Lord our God, we Your people come to You this day fully aware that we need your presence and your help in our lives, yet aware as well that we often fail to stop and to turn to you for that help. We get caught up in the troubles and the turmoils of daily living—we become busy with the goals that we have set for ourselves and those that come to us from our work and our families and our friends. We strive to be loving, we seek joy and peace, we desire to be gentle and patient and kind, to show goodness, and to have self-control— and yet these things all too often elude us. Help us, Lord, to root ourselves more deeply in you; to seek your will for our lives; to stop and to listen for your voice when we are troubled; to fully rely on you when we strive to do what is right; to remember you and trust in you when we are assaulted; to

**Please stand as you are able*

meditate on your goodness and your gracious will when we begin each day— so that like trees by a stream which send down their roots to the water, we may produce by your power the fruit of your Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer..,

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

Before You I Kneel

(arr. McDonald)

****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

Proverbs 25:28

²⁸*Like a city breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control.*

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

<i>Anthem</i>	<i>This I Pray</i>	<i>(Sorenson)</i>
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>"Self Control"</i>	
<i>Time of Reflection</i>		
<i>*Closing Hymn</i>	<i>O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go</i>	<i>#540</i>
<i>*Charge and Benediction</i>		
<i>*Closing Response</i>	<i>Walk with the Lord</i>	<i>(Thomson)</i>
<i>*Postlude</i>		

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Praise Him! Praise Him (Allen), Be Still, My Soul (arr. Whitworth), Song for the Nations (Christensen)

Time of Reflection: Grace Alone (Brown/Nelson)

Postlude: "Are Ye Able," Said the Master—#621

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Diane Spang

Fellowship: Gloria Johnson and Terri Meyers

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

Lector: Darrel Brenner

Tellers: Jan Stegmann and Pat Strachan

Ushers: Denny and 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 66; 170 joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Donna Angiolillo: In memory of Nick Angiolillo.

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.

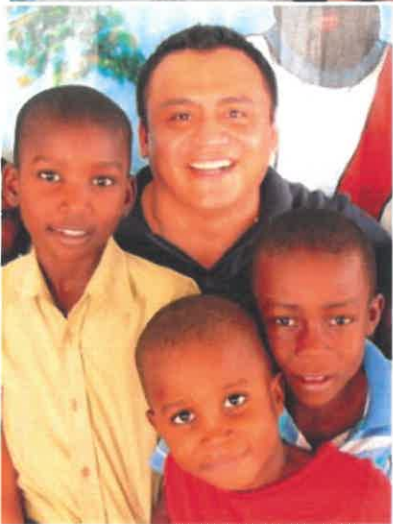
PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the library. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com. *Meetings have concluded for the season.*

SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

Pastor Cathy holds monthly book discussions on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the library. **Jul. 9:** Whither Thou Goest; **Aug. 13:** The Women.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are need for summer for hosting Fellowship, Tellers, Lectors, Ushers, etc. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet in Founders Hall or contact Tami Burke, Office Manager, in person, by phone 480-471-7239 or email officemanager@verdefaith.org if you are available.



Thank You!

For your donations to the church which supports our Outreach to charities that enable children and families to thrive.

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.*

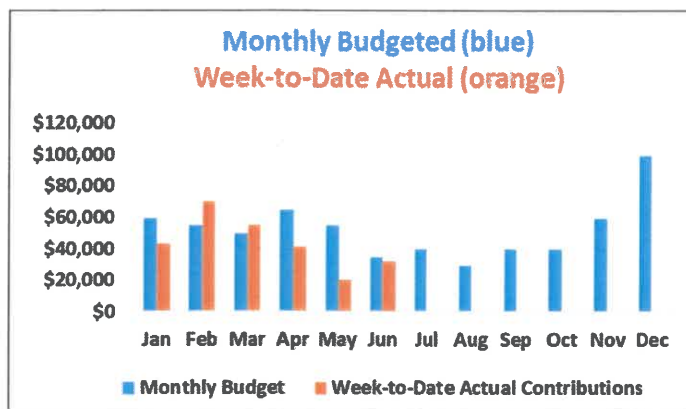


Prayer Shawl Ministry: *will resume in the Fall.*

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through June 22 were
\$263,506

YTD Budgeted contributions
through June 22 were
\$320,000



Thank you for your continuing support!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$330,998

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 \$448,000

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, June 30

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, July 1

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, July 2

10:30am Spiritual Themes in Literature

4:00pm Trio Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, July 3

No activities scheduled

Friday, July 4– OFFICE CLOSED

No activities scheduled

Saturday, July 5

No activities scheduled

Sunday, July 6

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

VOLUNTEER FOR FELLOWSHIP THIS SUMMER!

Lots of dates available to volunteer for Fellowship in June, July and August. Contact Tami Burke, Office Manager by phone 480-471-7239, email officemanager@verdefaith.org or stop into the office to sign up.



1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and

vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his
 sight; an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech-oes of
 blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a - bove, filled with his

Refrain

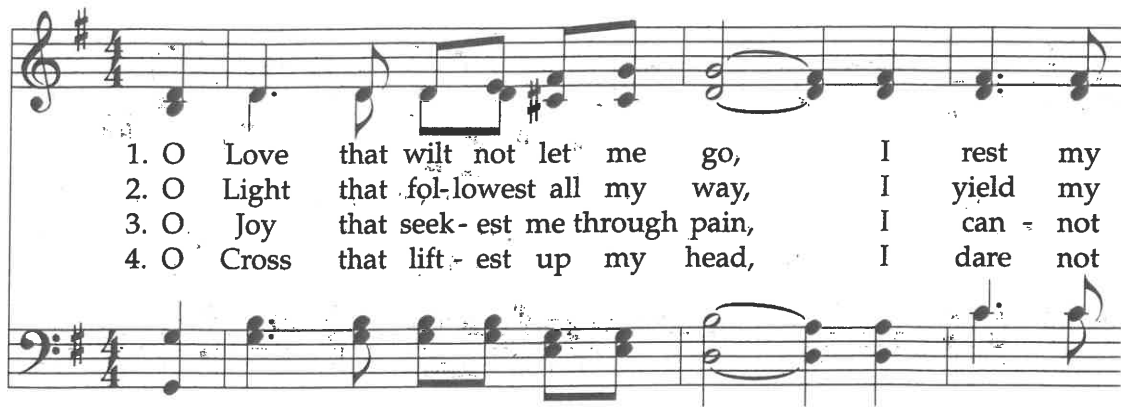
Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 mer - cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my
 good - ness, lost in his love.

song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

540

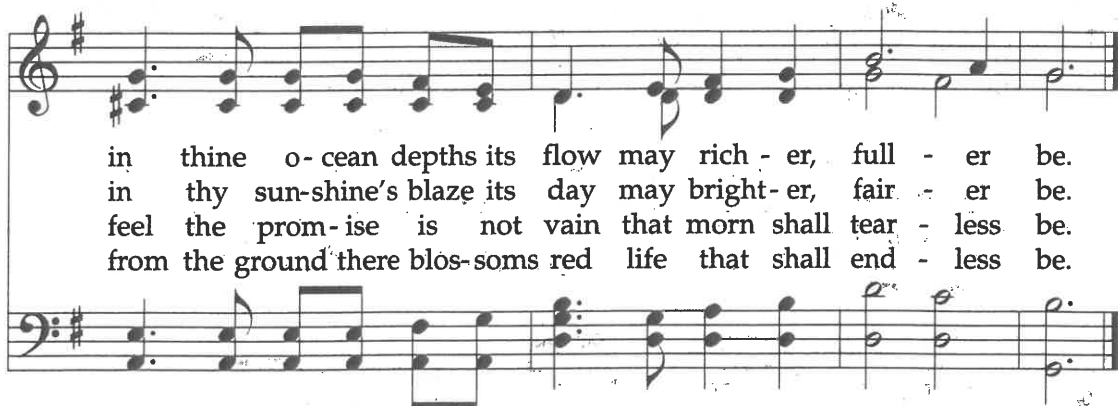
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go



1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2. O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3. O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can - not
 4. O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom-ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

WORDS: George Matheson, 1882
 MUSIC: Albert L. Peace, 1884

ST. MARGARET
 88.886



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

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

Board of Trustees

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Gary Etcheson (Facilities)

Dan Larson (Finance)

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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



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