

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

December 28, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

*This morning, we begin a **brand new seven-week sermon series** centered on the Lord's Prayer—the prayer Jesus himself taught his disciples. These familiar words have shaped Christian faith and practice for centuries, yet they continue to invite us into deeper trust, humility, and dependence on God.*

Tim Keller once wrote, "Prayer is not just a way to get things from God, but a way to get more of God." Throughout this series, we will explore how the Lord's Prayer forms us—teaching us who God is, who we are, and how we are called to live in the world.

C. S. Lewis observed, "I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. It doesn't change God—it changes me." Together, we will reflect on how prayer shapes our hearts, reorients our desires, and draws us more fully into the life God intends.

Whether the Lord's Prayer is deeply familiar or newly discovered, this series invites you to slow down, listen closely, and learn again how to pray—not only with our words, but with our whole lives.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Blessing "Light"

(Dengler)

**Call to Worship*

Pastor: *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;*

People: *Oh those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is our life and light.

People: *In His name and in His power, let us worship God!*

**Hymn of Praise*

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

#570

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ, You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. 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.

*Please stand as you are able

**Passing of the Peace*

Call to Offering

Offertory

The Work of Christmas

(Forrest)

**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 11:1-13

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *Seek Ye First* *(arr. Wagner)*

Sermon *"Lord Teach Us to Pray"*

Time of Reflection

***Closing Hymn** *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* **#265**

Charge and Benediction

***Closing Response** *Threefold Amen*

***Postlude**

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: He is Lord *with* O Come, Let Us Adore Him (arr. Hayes), The Messiah Medley (arr. Wyrzten),
O Holy Night! (arr. Tornquist)

Time of Reflection: Still, Still, Still (arr. Hayes)

Postlude: O Thou Joyful #169

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Badge Table: Frank and Lori Bennett

Fellowship: Carol Matthews and Rockee Coalson

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

Lector: Christie Gorsline

Tellers: Brenda Bulcher and Jan Stegmann

Ushers: Rog & Sharon Severson

Road Signs: Ric Doerflinger

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 198; 183 joined online.

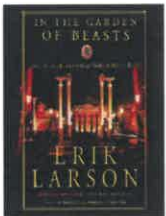
Today's flowers were donated by: Nancy Beegle & Bob Edwards: In thanks for 2025!

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 Steve with requests, or if you would like to serve on the team.

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



SPIRITUAL THEME IN LITERATURE

The Spiritual Theme in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leather. The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the library. The book for **January**—*The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi; **February**—*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig; **March**—*American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins; **April**—*Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner; **May**—*Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.



BIBLE STUDY WITH ED CARPENTER

Thursday Bible study with Ed Carpenter will be in Founders' Hall at 7:30am and 4:00pm. Both sessions are covering the same material. The subject will be the Gospel of John. All are welcome.

Ever thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?

Community Church of the Verdes will be training another class of Stephen Ministers on January 12—January 23, 2026. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as grief, hospitalization, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be a part of this exciting ministry. Watch for a special announcement on Sunday December 7th. If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Donna Angiolillo, Debbie Etcheson, Glenda Hage, John Pasnau or Danny and Judy Villanueva.

NEW WEEKDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Beginning Monday, January 5, Pastor Steve invites you to a daily weekday prayer service held in the chapel at **9:00 a.m.** Rooted in scripture and prayer, this 15–20 minute service is designed to offer a gentle, grounding start to the day and a moment of peace in the midst of busy lives. Come as you are—no preparation needed. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Beginning Wednesday, January 7, join Pastor Steve for a **seven-week** Bible study on the Lord's Prayer in **Founders Hall at 11:00 a.m.** Together we will explore the meaning, depth, and spiritual wisdom of this central prayer of the Christian faith, and consider how it shapes our daily lives and our relationship with God. All are welcome—no prior preparation required.

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: Monday's at 1:00pm



Prayer Shawl Ministry: 2nd Friday of the month @ 9:00am

JANUARY MISSION DRIVE JUSTA CENTER

This month, we are collecting items for **Justa Center**. They assist homeless seniors on their path to housing by providing life-sustaining resources. Please help by donating:



- ♥ New sweatshirts (Sizes M, L & XL),
- ♥ Hand warmers
- ♥ Adult-size gloves.

Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. Thank you!

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through December 21 were
\$616,762

YTD Budgeted contributions
through December 21 were
\$610,000



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

Thank you for your continuing support!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$378,952

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 \$482,645

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 \$20,153

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, December 29

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

2:00pm Art Tour

Tuesday, December 30

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, December 31

No activities scheduled

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day—office closed

Friday, January 2

No activities scheduled

Saturday, January 3

No activities scheduled

Sunday, January 4

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

Performing Arts Committee

Presents

Live Concerts

All Concerts at 7pm



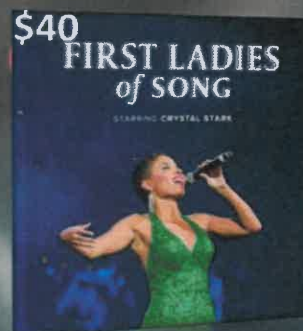
\$40

Scott Keo
Michael Bublé Tribute
January 16, 2026



\$40

Yachtzilla
Classic Soft Rock
February 20, 2026

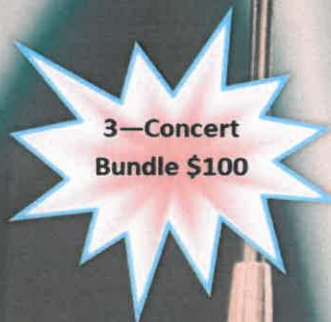


\$40

FIRST LADIES
of SONG

STARRING CRYSTAL STARK

Crystal Stark
Iconic Women Artists
March 13, 2026

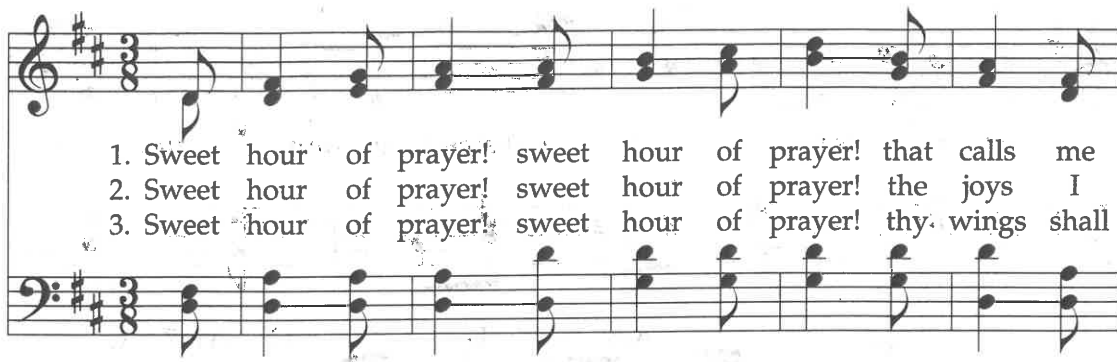


3—Concert
Bundle \$100

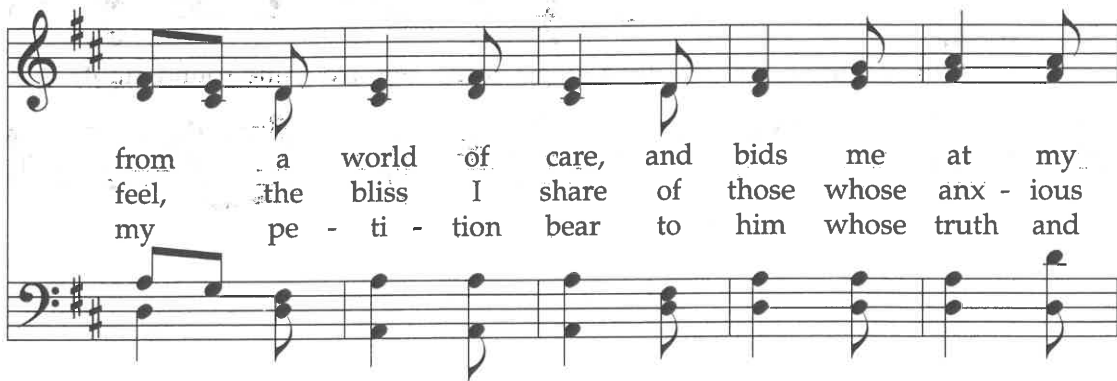
Scan for more details



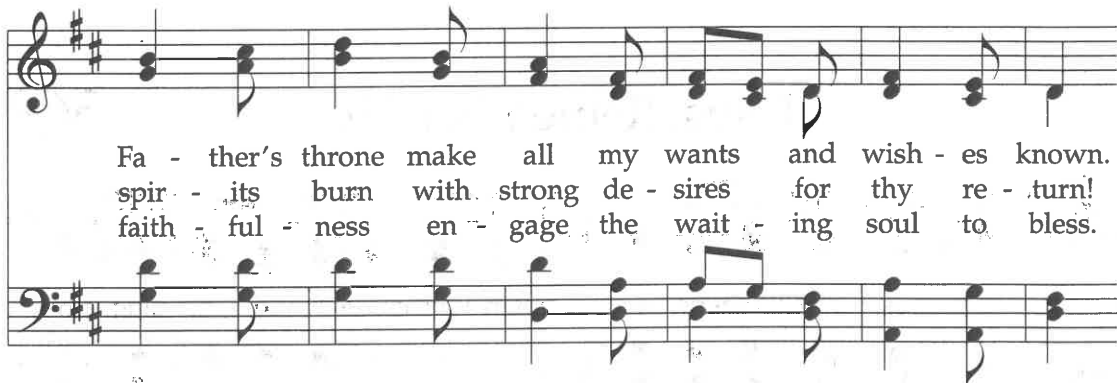
Sweet Hour of Prayer!



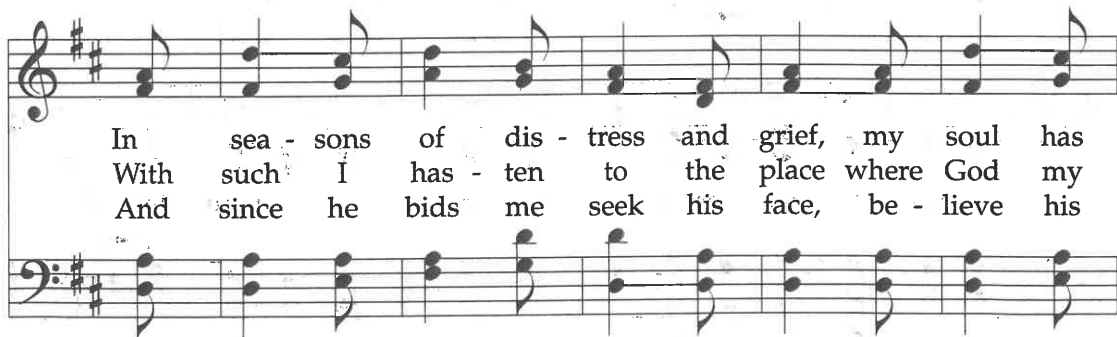
1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall



from a world of care, and bids me at my
 feel, the bliss I share of those whose anx - ious
 my pe - ti - tion bear to him whose truth and



Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
 spir - its burn with strong de - sires for thy re - turn!
 faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his

WORDS: William Walford, 1845
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1861

SWEET HOUR
 LMD

PRAYER AND GUIDANCE

of - ten found re - lief, and oft es - caped the
Sav - ior shows his face, and glad - ly take my
word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my

tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
sta - tion there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
ev - ery care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

265 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 4. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear;
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.



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 Spirit, 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 living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; 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 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday—9:00am—12:00pm

Telephone: (480) 471-7239

www.verdefaith.org

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard

Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332

Pastor's email: sbeard@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

Class of 2026

Jody Anschutz (Fellowship)

Gary Etcheson (Facilities)

Dan Larson (Finance)

Class of 2027

Karla Lalim (President)

Nancy Lowe (Mission)

Jared Reisinger (Technology)

Class of 2028

Pat Peterson (Education)

Nancy Sheppard (Worship)

Julie Peacock (Membership)



Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"