

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

March 29, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

On the night before the cross, Jesus speaks words not of urgency, but of comfort: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He knows what is coming—betrayal, denial, suffering—and yet his concern is for his disciples. Their world is about to unravel, and Jesus meets them not with explanation, but with promise.

"Believe in God, believe also in me."

In the face of uncertainty, Jesus calls them—and us—not to certainty, but to trust.

He speaks of a place: "In my Father's house are many dwelling places." This is not merely a description of heaven, but a promise of belonging. The Christian hope is not simply that we go somewhere better, but that we are brought home—to the Father, through the Son.

Thomas gives voice to our confusion: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" And Jesus responds with one of the most profound declarations in all of Scripture:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Jesus does not give directions. He gives himself. He is not one way among many. He is the way—the living path into the presence of God.

As Tim Keller puts it:

"Jesus is not saying, 'I know the way,' or 'I can show you the way,' but 'I am the way.' The Christian faith is not a set of directions; it is a person."

This is both deeply comforting and deeply challenging.

Comforting, because our hope does not depend on our ability to find God, but on Christ who has come to us.

Challenging, because it calls us to trust not in our own understanding, but in him alone.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled."

The way to the Father is not hidden. The way is not complicated. The way has a name.

Jesus Christ. And he has gone ahead of us—not to abandon us, but to bring us home.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

#129

Call to Worship

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Pastor: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

People: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pastor: Let us worship God.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

**Hymn of Praise*

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(see back pages)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Gracious God, we confess that we welcome you with joy yet fail to follow you in faithfulness. We want the glory of Palm Sunday without the suffering of Good Friday. Forgive us for our shallow praise, our divided hearts, and our unwillingness to walk your way. Renew us by your grace, that we may follow Christ all the way to the cross and beyond. Amen.

Silent Confession

Prayer Response

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.

**Please stand as you are able*

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 Hosanna! Sing a Loud Hosanna! (Hayes)

**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 John 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem There Is a Higher Throne (Getty)

Sermon "I am the Way"

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn* *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* *(see back pages)*

Charge and Benediction

Closing Response* *Sevenfold Amen* **#446

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: The King Rides In (Smith), The Palms (Faure), Just Beyond the Palms (Martin and Angerman)

Time of Reflection: Redeemer (Edwards)

Postlude: God of Grace and God of Glory (#464)

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Badge Table: Kent & Tami Lillemoe

Fellowship: Ann Bence

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Deb Barth

Lector: Charla Smith

Tellers: Jan Stegmann and Brenda Bulcher

Ushers: Tom & Lisa Young and Bob & Nell Bigley

Palm Distribution: Donna Angiolillo and Tom Reinarts

Road Signs: Bill Hickman and Tom Young

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 321; 202 joined online.

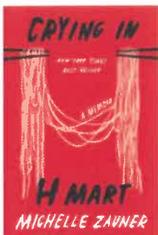
Today's flowers were donated by: Lita Hitchcock & Spencer Butts: In loving memory of our wonderful parents.

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. Next meeting is **May 14th**. 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 Leathers. The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the Library @ 10:00am. The book for **April**-Crying in the H Mart by Michelle Zauner; **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.



BIBLE STUDY

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 30

- 8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
- 9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
- 1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)
- 2:00pm Tonto Verde Assoc. Annual Mtg. (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, March 31

- 9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)
- 4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

Wednesday, April 1

- 9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve
- 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 2

- 7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
- 9:00am Maundy Thursday (Chapel)
- 4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
- 5:00pm Holy Thursday Mass St. Dominic (Sanctuary)
- 6:00pm St. Dominic's Adoration (Chapel)

Friday, April 3

- 9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
- 3:00pm Good Friday (Sanctuary)
- 5:00pm Stations of the Cross St. Dominic (Courtyard)
- 5:30pm Good Friday Service St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 4

- 11:00am Bill Hoffman Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 5

- 6:30am Easter Sunrise (Memorial Garden)
- 8:30am Easter Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)
- 10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

HOLYWEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

- April 2: Maundy Thursday 9:00 am**
- April 3: Good Friday 3:00 pm**
- April 5: Easter Sunrise 6:30 am (in the Memorial Garden)**
- April 5: Easter 8:30 am (in the Sanctuary)**

MISSIONS



Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center: The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am



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

MARCH MISSION DRIVE

SUPPORT THRIVE AZ

This month, we are collecting items for **Thrive AZ**. They walk alongside families who are at-risk of losing their kids to foster care and help young adults who have aged-out of the foster-care system. Please help by donating:

- ♥ **Sheets**
- ♥ **Blankets**
- ♥ **Standard pillows for twin beds.**



Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. For easy Amazon ordering, use the website link or contact Nancy Lowe at 203-395-9872 or ntart94@gmail.com.

FINANCE UPDATE

Online Giving is available!
It's easy, fast and secure.
Just scan the barcode or visit the website at verdefaith.org/give



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

With gratitude for the generosity of church members, we are currently operating within our projected budget. The Finance Committee is focused on keeping you informed of this measure and of other financial results.

We are developing a more comprehensive method of reporting this information to you. You can expect a high-level snapshot of Receipts, Disbursements, Capital Spending and Fund Balances on a quarterly basis. The first report will be available in early July.

For comments, suggestions or questions, please contact Kim Dadlani, Treasurer, at Kim.g.dadlani@gmail.com. Thank you for your faithful giving!!!

Scholarship Fund Important News

The church's Scholarship Fund has provided awards to recipients who have demonstrated academic excellence, commitment, and service with our mission partners. The Board of Directors recently evaluated the fund and voted to terminate it because we have received fewer and fewer qualified applicants over the years. The final recipients are: Erin Louise Chartier, FCA, \$4,000. Dustin Caleb Crenshaw, FCA, \$4,000. Robert Daved Holt, Sunshine Acres, \$4,000. Angelito Alvarado, Sunshine Acres, \$3,000. Christian Family Care, Family Care Kids Preschool scholarship fund, \$8,550.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

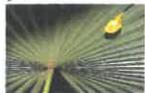
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH



Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joyce.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.



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

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm

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

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Nancy Sheppard (Worship)

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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"