

# COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

*December 14, 2025*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Time for Centering*

*Today we continue our Advent series, **Songs of the Season**, by reflecting on the cherished hymn “Joy to the World.” Written by Isaac Watts and inspired by Psalm 98, this carol is far more than a festive tune—it is a bold proclamation of the good news that Christ comes to renew all things.*

*Together we will look closely at the hymn’s powerful phrase: “Let every heart prepare Him room,” a call to open our lives to God’s transforming presence. As we explore the rich biblical imagery woven through the carol, we will consider how its message invites us to experience joy not as sentiment or seasonality, but as a deep, abiding confidence in God’s faithfulness. In a time when many carry heavy burdens, “Joy to the World” calls us to hear again the promise of Emmanuel—God with us—and to live with expectancy, gratitude, and hope.*

# *Order of Worship*

*Prelude*

*Welcome & Announcements*

*Introit*

*Blessing "Joy"*

*(Dengler)*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

*Let us pray together: (unison)*

*We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.*

*\*Hymn of Praise*

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*#149*

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)*

*Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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**      *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*      #148  
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**      *Glad Tidings of Joy*      (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**      Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Leader:**      *The Word of the Lord.*

**People:**      *Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem**      *Come to Us, O Promised One*      (Larson)

## *Sermon*

*"Songs of the Season: Joy to the World"*

## *Time of Reflection*

### *\*Closing Hymn*

*Joy to the World*

**#143**

### *Charge and Benediction*

### *\*Closing Response*

*One Candle Is Lit (Verse 3)*

**#128**

### *\*Postlude*

#### *Music for today's worship includes:*

**Prelude:** Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella (arr. Hayes), Noel (Daquin), Someday (Vale)

**Time of Reflection:** All Is Well (M.W. Smith and Kirkpatrick)

**Postlude:** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn #138

**Soloist:** Debby Wojtas

#### *Volunteers assisting with worship today:*

**Communion Table:** Pat Strachan

**Badge Table:** Frank and Lori Bennett

**Fellowship:** Pat Muilenburg and Barb Forsberg

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

**Lector:** Debbie Etcheson

**Tellers:** Brenda Bulcher and Jan Stegmann

**Ushers:** Tom & Lisa Young

**Advent Readers:** Bob & Linda Dietsche

**Road Signs:** Bill Hickman



## **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. 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.

# 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](http://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 214; 130 joined online.

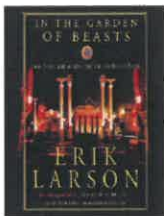
**Today's flowers were donated by: Maggie McMillan:** In memory of her brother Fred.

**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](mailto:lift5800@gmail.com).  
*Meetings will start again in December.*



## 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. The book for **December** is In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson.

**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.

## ***FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE...***

Dear Members of the Church of the Verdes,

We are excited to share that several Trustee positions are now open for nomination, and we invite you to consider whether this is your moment to step forward in service.

We are currently seeking nominees for the following Trustee roles:

- **Education**
- **Finance**
- **Fellowship**
- **Facilities**

If you feel inspired to apply your gifts, or know someone whose leadership would strengthen our community, we encourage you to volunteer your name or submit a nomination.

Thank you for considering this important opportunity to help shape the future of our church.

Warm regards,

*The Nominating Committee*

Church of the Verdes



## 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

## December Mission Drive Harvest Compassion Center

This month, we are collecting items for **Harvest Compassion Center**. They support the underserved in Phoenix in Christ's name with respect and compassion by providing food, clothing, and hygiene items.



Please help by donating:

- Ramen
- Cereal
- Toilet paper

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

**NEW:** For easy Amazon ordering, contact Nancy Lowe at 203-395-9872 or [ntart94@gmail.com](mailto:ntart94@gmail.com) Thank you!

## CONTINUING OUR TRADITION

Each year Community Church of the Verdes and St. Dominic Mission, decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas.

**If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one:**

- ♥ USE THE ENVELOPES PROVIDED
- ♥ PRINT CLEARLY
- ♥ PLACE THE ENVELOPE ALONG WITH \$10 (CASH OR CHECK) INTO THE OFFERING PLATE, OR DROP IT BY THE OFFICE.

Make checks payable to Community Church of the Verdes

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 21, 2025**



The list will be published in the bulletins at Christmas

You may pick up your poinsettia after the St. Dominic Mass on Christmas.



## OPERATING FUND

**YTD Actual contributions  
through December 7 were  
\$576,154**

**YTD Budgeted contributions  
through December 7 were  
\$580,000**



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 15**

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

1:00 PAD Project (Sunday School Room)

### **Tuesday, December 16**

No activities scheduled

### **Wednesday, December 17**

4:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday, December 18**

7:30am Bible Study (Founders Hall)

9:00am Sandwich Making Justa Center (Founders Hall)

4:00pm Bible Study (Founders Hall)

### **Friday, December 19**

No activities scheduled

### **Saturday, December 20**

No activities scheduled

### **Sunday, December 21**

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

11:00am St. Dominic Fellowship (Founders Hall)

# 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

3—Concert  
Bundle \$100

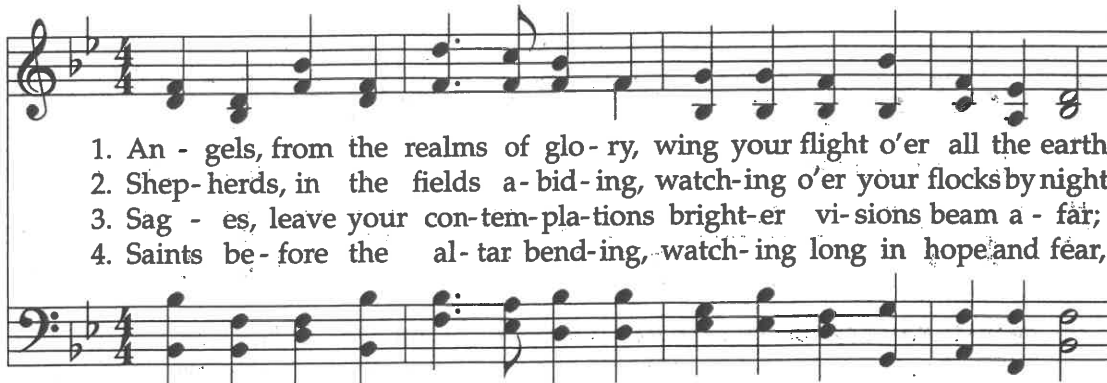
\$40



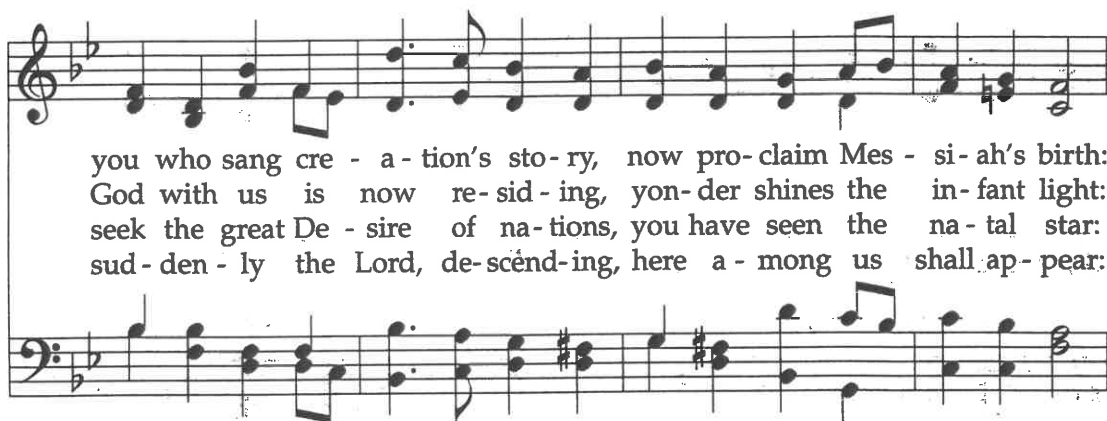
Crystal Stark  
Iconic Women Artists  
March 13, 2026

Scan for more details



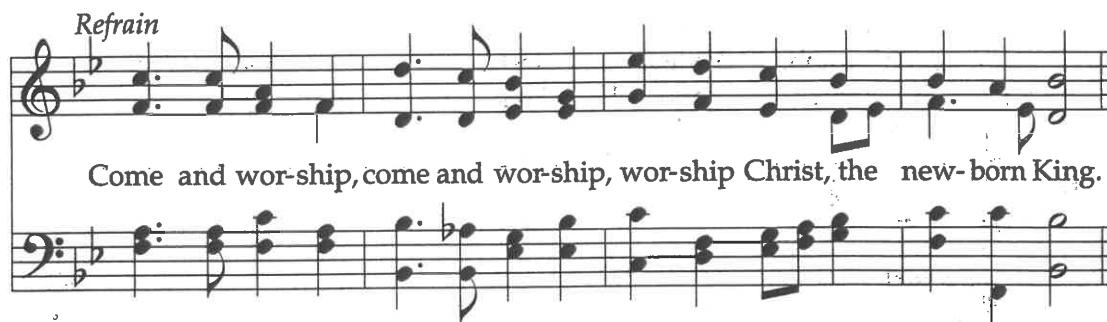


1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:  
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, here a - mong us shall ap - pear:

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816  
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE  
 87.87.87



# Joy to the World!

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, for He cometh. Psalm 98:4, 9*

> 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her  
 > 2. Joy to the world! the Sav-ior reigns; Let men their songs em-  
 3. No more let sin and sor-row grow, Nor thorns in-fest the  
 > 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na-tions

King: Let ev-ery heart pre-pare Him room,  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
 ground. He comes to make His bless-ings flow  
 prove The glo-ries of His righ-teous-ness

And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture  
 Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His  
 1. And heav'n and na-ture sing, 1. And heav'n and na-ture sing, And

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.  
 joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won-ders, won-ders of His love.  
 heav'n and na-ture sing,

TEXT: Isaac Watts

ANTIOCH



### ***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](http://www.verdefaith.org)***

***Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard  
Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332  
Pastor's email: [sbeard@verdefaith.org](mailto: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"*