

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

March 22, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

This morning, we continue our Lenten journey through the "I Am" sayings of Jesus with his words in John 15:

"I am the Vine; you are the branches."

In this rich and intimate image, Jesus invites us into a life not of striving, but of abiding—of remaining deeply connected to him as the source of all life and fruitfulness. In a culture that prizes independence and self-sufficiency, Jesus offers a different vision: a life rooted in dependence, sustained by grace, and shaped by communion with him.

As Eugene H. Peterson reminds us, "It is easier to act your way into a new way of feeling than to feel your way into a new way of acting." The Christian life is not built on waiting for the right feeling, but on faithfully remaining in Christ day by day.

And as John Calvin writes, "We are like dry and withered branches until we are engrafted into Christ." Apart from him, we cannot bear fruit—but in him, we are given life.

Let us together reflect on what it means to abide in Christ, to receive his life, and to become people who bear lasting fruit.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Spirit Song

#352

Call to Worship

Pastor: The heavens proclaim the righteousness of the Lord.

People: We come to worship the God of glory.

Pastor: Come, return to the Lord with all your heart.

People: We come seeking mercy, grace, and renewal.

Pastor: Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice."

People: We come to listen and to follow.

Pastor: Let us worship God.

People: Let us worship with glad hearts.

**Hymn of Praise*

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#16

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts, cleanse us, we pray, from all our offenses; and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with lowliness and meekness, we may draw near to you. High and holy God, glorious and faithful, to those who seek you with a sincere heart, you reveal the beauty of your face. Strengthen us in faith to embrace the mystery of the cross, and open our hearts to its transfiguring power; that we may walk the path of discipleship as followers of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

*Please stand as you are able

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.

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

Shalom

(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

John 15:1-8

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem *The Greatest Commandment* (Choplin)

Sermon *"I am the Vine"*

Time of Reflection

***Closing Hymn** *I Need Thee Every Hour* #578

Charge and Benediction

***Closing Response** *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life* #432

***Postlude**

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: *Forever with The Love of God* (arr. Tornquist), *Largo from "Xerxes"* (G.F. Handel), *Evidence of Grace* (arr. McDonald)

Time of Reflection: *How Deep the Father's Love For Us* (Townend)

Postlude: *Great Is the Lord* (Smith)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton and Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Badge Table: Judy Sevier

Fellowship: Fellowship Committee

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

Lector: Laura Spolum

Tellers: Carol Horonzy and Frank Green

Ushers: Gerry Baldwin, Hunter Peacock, Charla Smith 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 322; 210 joined online.

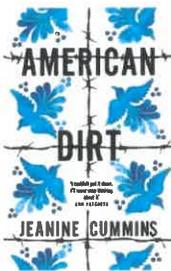
Today's flowers were donated by: Rod & Pat Muilenburg: In celebration of Pat's birthday and their anniversary.

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 **March 24th**. 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 **March**-American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins; **April**-Crying in the H Mart by Michelle Zauner; **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday at 11:00am Bible study: The Seven Deadly Sins with Pastor Steve is held in Founders' Hall. All are welcome.

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.

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily in memory/honor of a loved one:

-Use the pre-printed envelopes provided

-Print clearly; indicate who it is in memory, honor or recognition of (Information provided will be printed in the Easter bulletins)

-Enclose \$15 - check or cash (payable to Community Church of the Verdes)

-Place the envelope in the offering basket, or drop it off at the Community Church office MARCH 15TH—29TH

-DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE IS MARCH 29TH



****Lilies may be picked up after St. Dominic Mass on Easter Sunday until 1:00pm. After 1:00pm they will be taken to be donated.***

HOLYWEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

"I Am the Resurrection and the Light"

March 29: Palm Sunday 8:30 am

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
-  **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

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.

TOUR THRIVE AZ SHOPS:

NEW DATE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 24th AT 11 O'CLOCK

Join church members and guests on a tour of **Thrive AZ's** satellite location where their young adults learn business skills operating their **Thrift to Thrive** and **Grounds to Thrive** Shops. On the tour, we will grab a coffee and meet their President and CEO, Steve Vogel, who will talk about their foster care prevention and family reunification work.

The address is: **839 E Camelback Road, Phoenix**

Please register in Founders Hall or on the website and if you need transportation contact Nancy Lowe ntart94@gmail.com or 203-395-9872.

OPERATING FUND

****YTD Actual contributions
through March 15 were
\$197,687**

****YTD Budgeted contributions
through March 15 were
\$143,000**



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

****Giving varies week to week and timing of several large donations have distorted our Y-T-D giving comparison to Budget. Majority of the favorable variance to Budget is timing.**

Going forward your Treasurer will provide high level snap shot of our Receipts, Disbursements, Capital Spending and Fund balances on a Quarterly basis. We feel this will provide a full picture of our financials. Please feel free to email our Treasurer if you have any comments or suggestions at Kim.g.dadlani@gmail.com. Thank you for your faithful giving !!!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$390,481

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 \$485,367

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 \$23,653

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 23

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
10:00am Fellowship Meeting (Library)
1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)

Tuesday, March 24

9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)
11:00am Tour: Thrive AZ
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)
6:30pm PAL Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, March 25

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve
10:00am St. Dominic Bible Study (Chapel)
11:00am Bible Study: The Seven Deadly Sins w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
8:00am RVCA Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
11:00am RVCA Board Meeting (Choir Room)
4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)

Friday, March 27

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
5:00pm Stations of the Cross St. Dominic (Courtyard)

Saturday, March 28

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)

Sunday, March 29

8:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)
10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)



New Members

16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



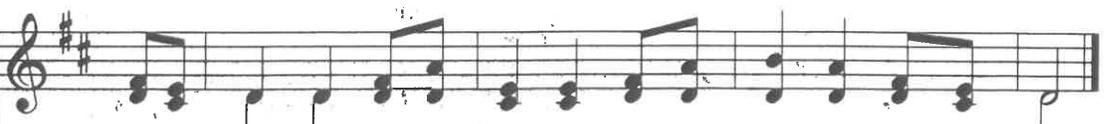
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2. Here I raise to thee an al-tar; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!



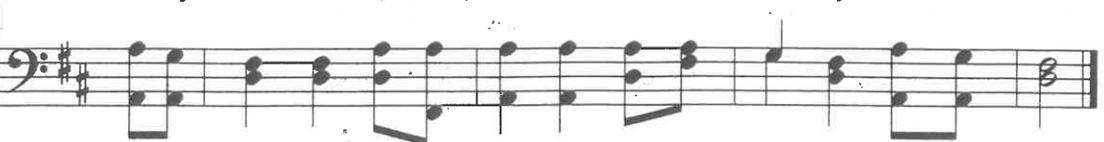
streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar- rive at home.
Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan-der, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.
he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.



WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
87.87D

I Need Thee Every Hour

578

1. I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2. I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near by;
 3. I need thee ev - ery hour in joy or pain;
 4. I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy will,

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford,
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly, and a - bide or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

Refrain

I need thee, oh, I need thee; ev - ery hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

WORDS: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; refrain, Robert Lowry, 1872
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1872

NEED
 64.64 w. refrain



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-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

Class of 2027

*Pat Peterson (President)
Nancy Lowe (Mission)
Jared Reisinger (Technology)*

*Julie Peacock (Education)
Nancy Sheppard (Worship)
Kim Dadlari (Treasurer)*

*Rod Bulcher (Facilities)
Linda Smiley (Fellowship)
Jackie Williams (Membership)*



Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"