

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

June 21, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Throughout our The Church Alive series in the Book of Acts, we have been exploring the marks of a Spirit-filled church and a Spirit-filled believer. We have seen how the Holy Spirit empowers bold witness, creates deep community, inspires generosity, and gives courage in the face of opposition. This week, Acts 5 reveals another surprising mark of life in the Spirit: a willingness to suffer for the sake of Christ.

After being arrested, threatened, and flogged for preaching the gospel, the apostles leave the council chamber rejoicing that they had been “counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.” Their response is startling. Rather than retreating in fear or bitterness, they continue preaching and teaching with even greater determination.

What gave them such courage?? Why would they rejoice after enduring public humiliation and physical pain? And what does this passage teach Christians today who live in a culture that values comfort, security, and acceptance?

This morning, we explore how the Holy Spirit strengthens believers to remain faithful when following Jesus comes at a cost. We will discover that suffering is not something Christians seek, but when it comes as a result of faithfulness to Christ, it can become a powerful testimony to the reality of the gospel. Acts 5 reminds us that one of the clearest marks of a Spirit-filled life is not merely boldness in easy times, but steadfast faithfulness when obedience becomes difficult. Christ is worthy of our trust, our witness, and our devotion—even when it costs us something.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Come and Find the Quiet Center

#575

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come, let us worship the God who is worthy of all honor, glory and praise.

People: We gather to lift high the name of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for his name.

People: Grant us courage, O Lord, to follow Christ wherever he leads.

Pastor: When faithfulness is costly, God is our strength.

People: When the road is difficult, Christ is our hope.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit empowers us to bear witness with joy and perseverance.

People: We come to worship the risen Lord, who suffered for us and now reigns forever.

All: Let us worship God with reverence, gratitude, and joy.

**Hymn of Praise*

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

#64

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

God who is rich in mercy, hear us as we name the truth of our lives: we grow weary in waiting for the fulfillment of your promises. Our imaginations are too narrow for the new thing you are doing. Our courage too often falters when you beckon us forward in faith. Our hearts can be inhospitable to your incarnation. Forgive us, we pray. Renew and remake us, that we might be witnesses to your wonders and bearers of your mercy, finding ourselves fully alive in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able

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

O Lord, How Majestic Is Your Name!

(Larson)

**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

Acts 5:41-42

⁴¹As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. ⁴²And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Shepherd Psalm

(arr. McDonald)

Sermon

“Worthy to Suffer”

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn*

This Is My Father’s World

#59

Charge and Benediction

**Closing Response*

Tender Shepherd, Gentle Lamb

(Nolan)

**Postlude*

Music for today’s worship includes:

Prelude: The Old Rugged Cross (Bennard), Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth (Mendelssohn), All Creatures of Our God and King (arr. Hayes)

Time of Reflection: Think About His Love (Harrah)

Postlude: He Is Exalted (Paris)

Duo: Debby Wojtas and Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Elaine Betsch

Refreshment Stewards: Ann Bence and Margy Lee

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Curt Hage

Tellers: Terri Meyers and Ann Chase

Ushers: Donna Peterson, Charla Smith, and Tom Reinarts

Road Signs: Bill Hickman, Ric Doerflinger, Tom Young

Where in the World are Community Church Members?

As you travel this summer, send us a picture that we can share during our pre roll announcements. We want to stay connected and share your joy. Send us a picture on the lake, on the cruise, on the beach, relaxing at home or wherever your summer away takes you. Send pictures to Tami Burke at officemanager@verdefaith.org



SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

The Book Club will resume on the second Thursday in December (**December 10th**). We will review Mark Twain by Ron Chernow. We will meet on subsequent months on the second Thursday of the month until May 2027. I will send other titles over the summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome members and guests! 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 **108**; **162** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by Tom & Ina Spaeth: Honoring the spirit and soul of Marna Pier.

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 will resume in the Fall. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.



MISSIONS

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

Pad Project Ministry: Will start again in the Fall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Will start again in the Fall.

Community Prayer – Summer Schedule

During the month of June, our Community Prayer service will be held on Wednesdays only at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

During July and August the Community Prayer service will be done via Teams online on Wednesdays at 9:00am. If you would like to join, please email Pastor Steve and he will send you the invite.

If you are away and would like to receive the prayer liturgy by email, please contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org.



Care Team Prayers

Our newly created Care Team has begun praying weekly for members of our congregation. We are praying through our membership rolls alphabetically and will pray specifically for a small group of names each week.

If you have a specific prayer request, please email Donna Angiolillo at: donna.angiolillo@gmail.com.

GIVING NOTES

**Online Giving is available!
It's easy, fast and secure.**



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

Just scan the barcode or visit the website at verdefaith.org/give

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!!!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund

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. Historically, this amount was allocated to the Mission Committee to support charitable organizations.

Memorial Garden Fund

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 internment of the ashes of loved ones.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, June 22

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, June 23

4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

Wednesday, June 24

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve

Thursday, June 25

No activities scheduled

Friday, June 26

No activities scheduled

Saturday, June 27

No activities scheduled

Sunday, June 28

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY – THURSDAY: 9AM TO 2PM

FRIDAYS: CLOSED



Upcoming Sermons

June 28th

TITLE: A Witness to the End

SCRIPTURE: Acts 7:54-60

July 5th

Title: When God Interrupts

Scripture: Acts 9:1-9

July 12th (Guest Preacher Rev. Drew Hulse)

Title: Houston, We Have A Problem

Scripture: Acts 10:9-23

Summer Bible Study: Questioning Christianity

Join us for a weekly Bible study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Founders Hall. Together we will engage a video series by Timothy Keller titled *Questioning Christianity*, which thoughtfully explores some of the most common questions and doubts about the Christian faith.

Each session will include a video teaching followed by guided discussion, facilitated by Pastor Steve. This is a welcoming space for honest questions, meaningful conversation, and deeper reflection—whether you are new to the faith or have been walking with Christ for many years.

July 1st **Faith and Proof** - How can you believe in something you can't prove?

July 8th **Meaning** - Does life have meaning beyond what I make of it?
Can life be meaningful in the face of suffering?

July 15th no class

July 22nd **Identity**-Am I only as good as my latest achievement?

July 29th **Morality**-Can there be moral absolutes? Aren't right and wrong just common sense?

Aug 5th **Hope**-Can hope exist in the face of death and all the evil in the world?

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God 64

1. We sing your might-y power, O God, that made the moun-tains rise,
 2. We sing your good-ness, sov-ereign God, who filled the earth with food;
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low, but makes your glo-ries known;

that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 you formed the crea-tures with your word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from your throne.

We sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
 Oh! how your won-ders are dis-played, wher - e'er we turn our eyes:
 While all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care,

The moon shines full at your com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if we sur - vey the ground we tread, or gaze up - on the skies.
 and ev - ery - where that we can be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
 CMD

This Is My Father's World

59

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears, all
2. This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise, the
3. Our God has made this world; oh, let us ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings and round mé rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the flow - ers bright, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair; in
God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair. All

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hands the won - ders wrought.
rust - ling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me ev - ery - where.
earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's crea - tures ev - ery - where.

WORDS: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901, alt.
MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

TERRA BEATA
SMD



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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Friday — Closed
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*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)
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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"