

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

September 7, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

“When we grow, in contrast to merely change, we venture into new territory and include more people in our in our lives – serve more and love more. Our culture is filled with change; it’s poor in growth. New things, models, developments, opportunities are announced, breathlessly, every hour. But instead of becoming ingredients in a long and wise growth, they simply replace. The previous is discarded and the immediate stuck in – until, bored by the novelty, we run after the next fad. Men and women drawn always to the new never grow up. God’s way is growth, not change...David at thirty-seven was more than he was at seventeen – more praise, saner counsel, deeper love. More himself. More his God-given and God-glorifying humanity. A longer stride, a larger embrace.”

Eugene Peterson Leap Over a Wall

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Surely the Presence of the Lord

#263

**Call to Worship*

Pastor: Beloved, as we wait for the Lord, let us be found by Him in peace, without spot or blame.

*People: **We seek to live holy and faithful lives, trusting in His patience as our salvation.***

Pastor: Let us grown in grace and truth, and in the knowledge of our Savior.

*People: **We worship with humble hearts, ready for the coming of the Lord. Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise*

Lift High the Cross

#108

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You have called us to live in peace, to pursue holiness, and to wait faithfully for Your return. Yet we confess that we are often distracted and impatient. We seek comfort more than righteousness, and we avoid the hard truths of Your Word. Forgive us for the times we have ignored Your call to be blameless, and for when we have twisted Your grace into excuse. Teach us to count Your patience as salvation, and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. In His name we pray. 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.

**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

Days of Elijah with "All Hail the Power" (arr. McDonald)

***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**

Scripture

2 Peter 3:14-18

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist[a] to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

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

Anthem

Grace Alone

(arr. Fettke)

Sermon

"Therefore , My Friends"

***Words of Invitation**

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.

Words of Institution

Intinction

Prayer After Communion

(Adapted from Hold Fast to What is Good)

Almighty God, we thank you once again for this meal, this day. Send us out into your world to be the presence of love and hope to all who despair and fear, that all may have life, and life abundant. Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

****Closing Hymn***

To God Be the Glory

#72

****Charge and Benediction***

****Closing Response***

Amen

(Walker)

****Postlude***

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Processional for a Joyful Day (Wood), Voluntary (Stanley), Come, Christians, Join to Sing (arr. Hayes)

Communion: Lamb of God (Paris), In Remembrance of Me (Red), You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Kreutz)

Postlude: Praise Him! Praise Him! (#93)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Stewards: Judy & Paul Dorwart and Darrel and Rhonda Brenner

Communion Table: Elaine Betsch

Fellowship: Tom & Jan Stegman, Carol & Elry Wallman and Elaine & Keith Betsch

The Flower Committee

Lector: Bob Dietsche

Tellers: Pat Strachan and Terri Meyers

Ushers: Barbara Cornelius and Tom Reinarts

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 **154**; **354** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by Sharon & Rog Severson: In memory of Sharon's mother Ruth.

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

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

WELCOME PASTOR STEVE BEARD



Please join us in welcoming Pastor Steve and his wife Julie during fellowship in Founders Hall following the service today.

For more information about Pastor Steve and the Call Committee's journey to call him, please view a brief power point on our church website, available at <https://verdefaith.org/about-us/meet-new-pastor-steve-beard>. Your Call Committee members are:

Keith Betsch

Debbie Etcheson

Jan Stegmann, chair

Elry Wallman

Jan Weinberger

Opportunities for small groups to meet with Pastor Steve and Julie will be scheduled this fall. Announcements regarding dates/times to sign up for this will be made in the bulletin and through email.

Thank you for your continued prayers during our search and during this transition for our church.

Mission Drives: The Mission Committee is grateful to everyone who donated to our Monthly Mission Drives for various charities during the season. We will continue to collect food for the Extended Hands Food Bank and FHCMA Food Closet throughout the summer,



MISSIONS

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

FHCMA Food Closet: toothpaste, canned fruit, Saltine, and Ritz crackers.

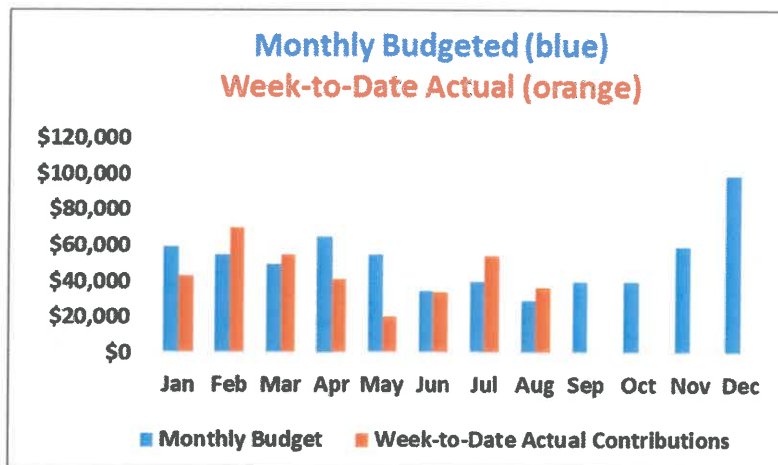
Extended Hands Food Bank: non-perishable food items.

Pad Project Ministry: meets weekly on Mondays at 1:00 pm.

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through August 31 were
\$357,755

YTD Budgeted contributions
through August 31 were
\$390,000



Thank you for your continuing support!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$330,768

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 \$436,756

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 \$10,143

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 may not 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, September 8

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, September 9

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, September 10

4:00pm Trio Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 11

No activities scheduled

Friday, September 12

Bohmer service

Saturday, September 13

No activities scheduled

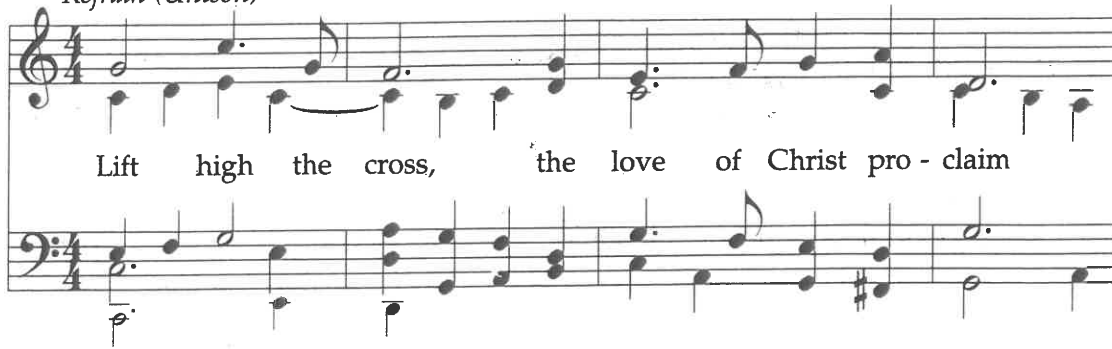
Sunday, September 14

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

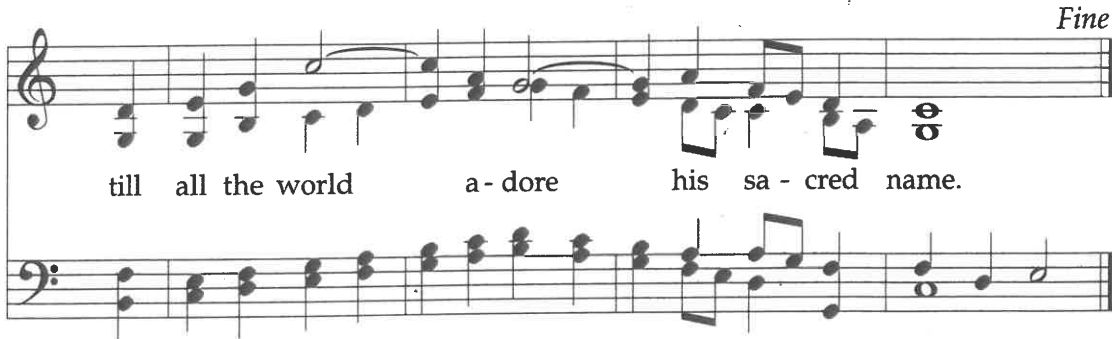
9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

Refrain (Unison)

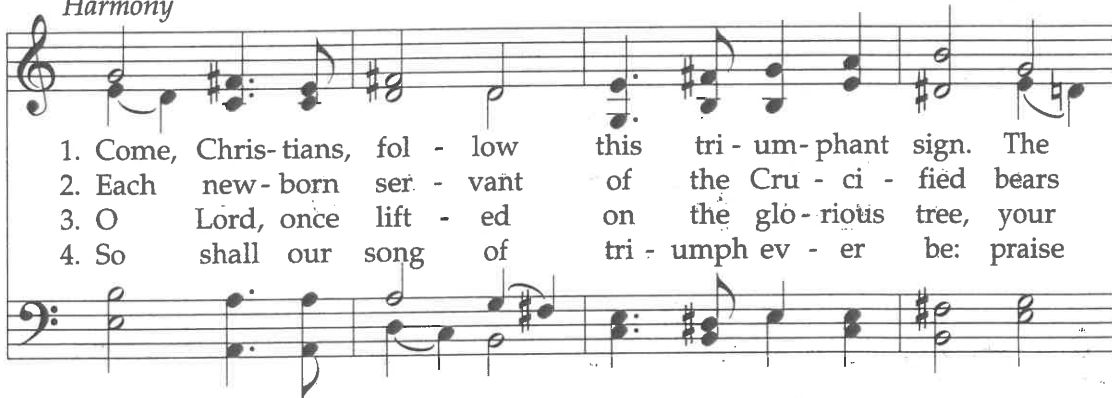


Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

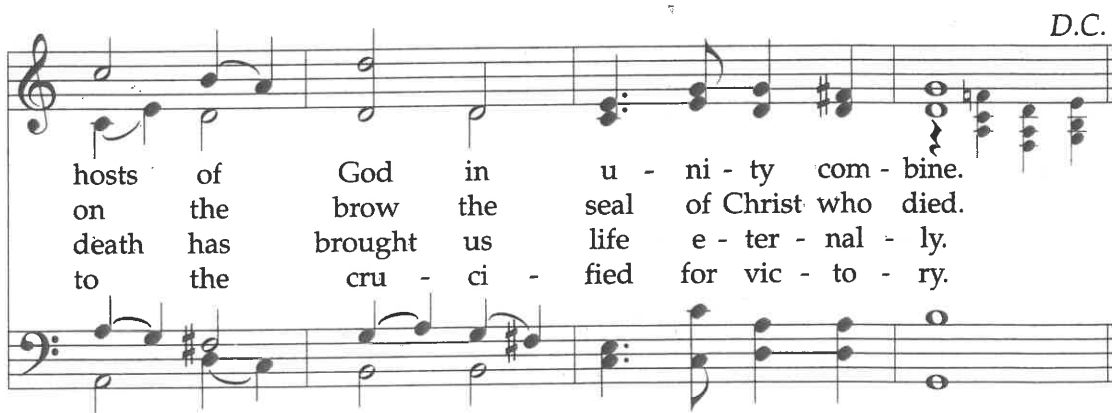


till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Harmony



1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low this tri - um - phant sign. The
 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

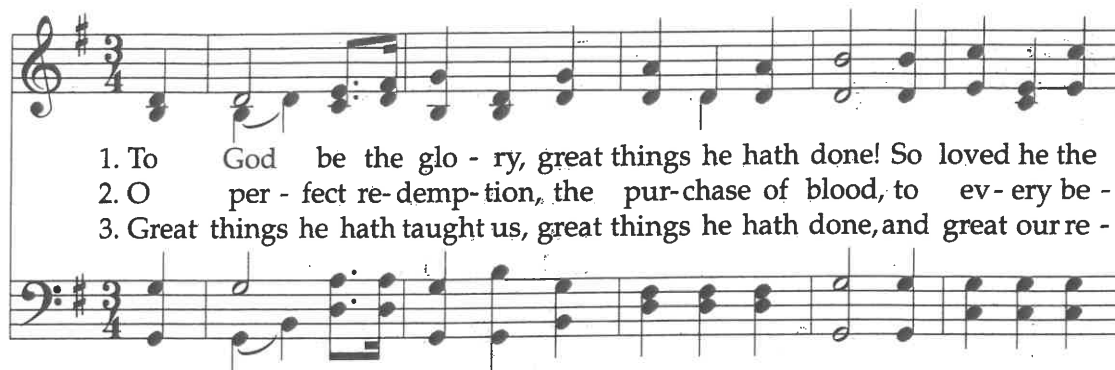


hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.
 on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 to the cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

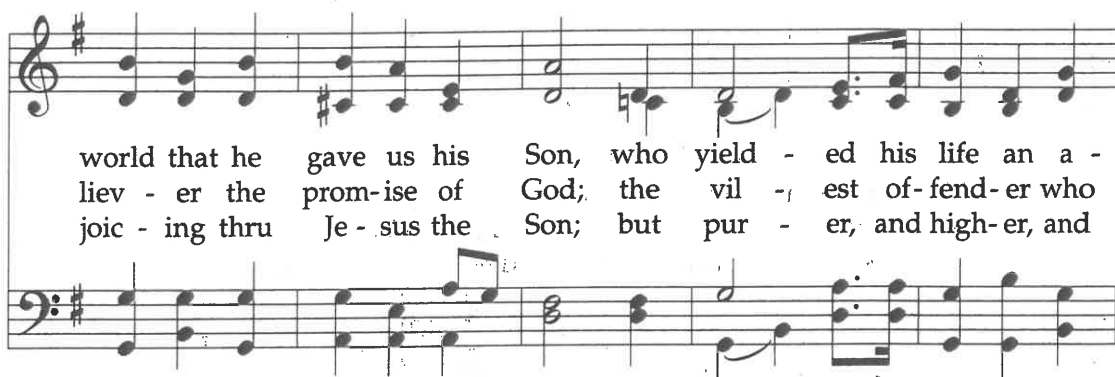
WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916

CRUCIFER
 10.10 w. refrain

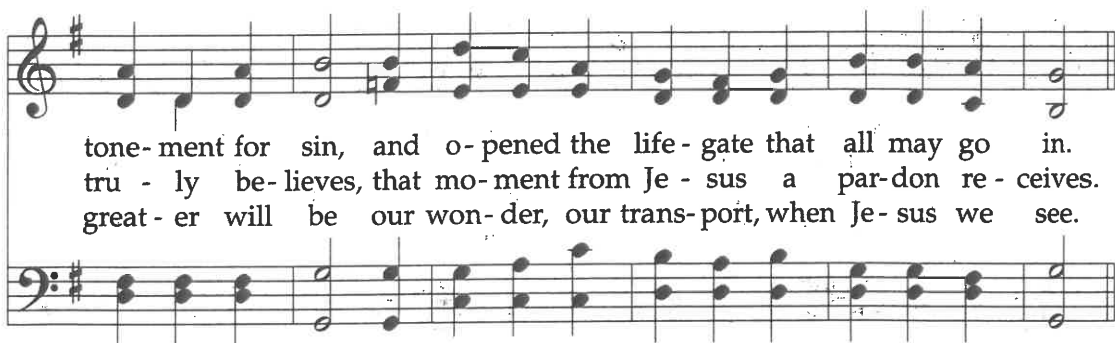
To God Be the Glory



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -

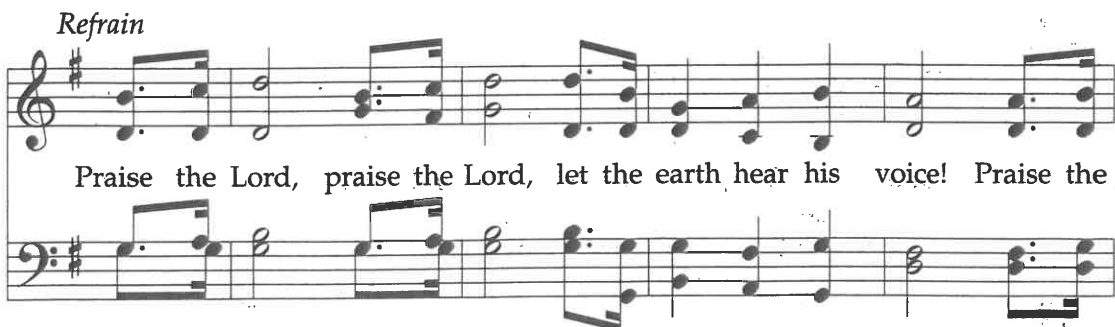


world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and



tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

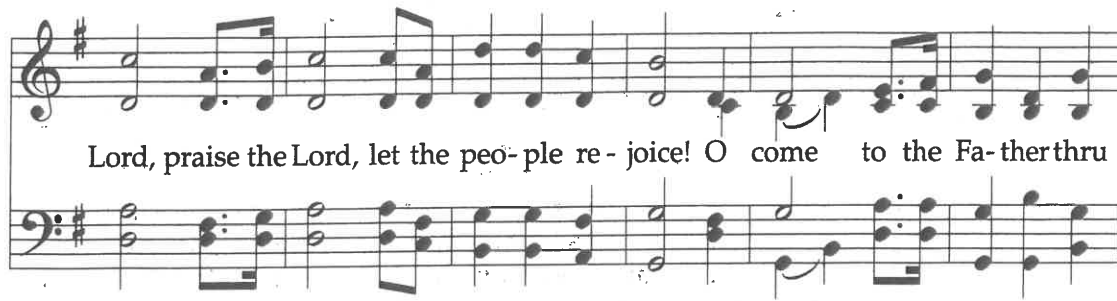


Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

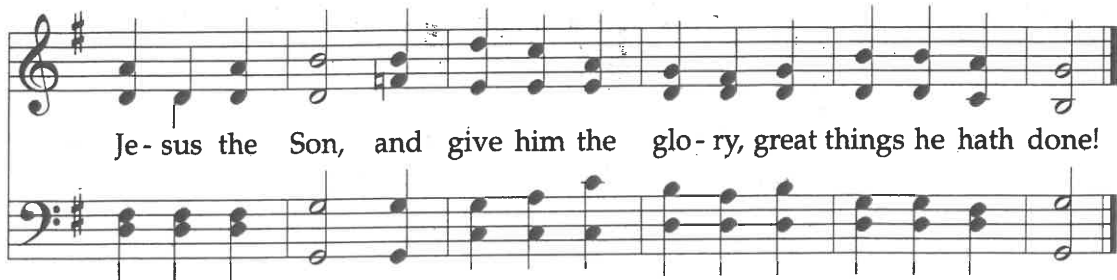
TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11 11.11 11 w. refrain

GRACE AND LOVE



Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo- ple re - joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.



Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done!

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It maintains the same key signature and features similar melodic and harmonic patterns. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, and the system concludes with a double bar line.



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 Ghost, 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 quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 — 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00am — 12:30pm

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

Independent Contractors:

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Sexton: Glen Langenfeld

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

Board of Trustees

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Gary Etcheson (Facilities)

Dan Larson (Finance)

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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"