

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

March 15, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, we are reflecting on the powerful "I Am" sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John. These words invite us to slow down, examine our lives, and listen again for the voice of Christ calling us back to himself.

Today, we turn to one of the most beloved images in Scripture: "I am the Good Shepherd." In John 10, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who knows his sheep, calls them by name, and willingly lays down his life for them. In a world full of competing voices, false promises, and restless striving, the image of the Good Shepherd reminds us that Christ's leadership is not harsh or distant, but personal, sacrificial, and deeply attentive.

Lent is a season of reorientation. It is a time to ask ourselves: Whose voice are we following? Who is shaping the direction of our lives? Jesus contrasts the Good Shepherd with hired hands and thieves—those who ultimately abandon the flock or seek their own gain. By contrast, the Good Shepherd leads with love, protects the vulnerable, and gives his life for the sheep.

We will explore what it means to recognize the Shepherd's voice, to trust his guidance, and to rest in the assurance that we are known and cared for by Christ himself. As we move deeper into Lent and toward the cross, we are reminded that the Shepherd's care is not sentimental, it is costly. The Good Shepherd lays down his life so that the sheep may live.

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

Come to Me

(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 10:7-15

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *I'd Rather Have Jesus* (arr. Rouse)

Sermon "I am the Good Shepherd"

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn* *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #558

Charge and Benediction

**Closing Response* *Threefold Amen*

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Wonderful Words of Life (Bliss), Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley (arr. Wood), There Is a Fountain (arr. Hayes)

Time of Reflection: The Mission/How Great Thou Art (arr. Schmidt, Van Der Beek and Nelson)

Postlude: The Lord's My Shepherd (#78)

Soloist: Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Badge Table: Debbie Barth

Fellowship: Fellowship Committee (Annual Meeting)

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

Lector: Tom Mulleady

Tellers: Judy Sevier and Tom Spaeth

Ushers: John & Sue Cole and Barbara Baker

Road Signs: Bill Hickman and Tom Young

PLEASE WELCOME... Fredrick Chao, a recently retired member of the cello section of The Phoenix Symphony and was previously the associate principal cellist of the Honolulu Symphony. An avid chamber music enthusiast, he has been a member of the Delmar Trio, Stonybrook Trio and the Philharmonic String Quartet. Currently Fred is the cellist of Quartet Sabaku. Chao, received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University, where he was awarded the coveted Performers Certificate, and his master's degree from The State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he was chosen to be a member of the Stony Brook Graduate Trio. He has studied cello performance with Janos Starker, Bernard Greenhouse, Gary Hoffman, Ronald Leonard, Frank Mill and Dudley Powers.

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 327; 177 joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Debby & Craig Mullison: In honor of Debby's mother's 102nd birthday on March 14th.

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 8 were
\$190,096

YTD Budgeted contributions
through March 8 were
\$132,000



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 \$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.

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, March 16

- 8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
- 9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
- 1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)
- 2:00pm Performing Arts Meeting (Library)
- 3:15pm St. Dominic's Pastor Finance Counsel (Boardroom)
- 4:00pm Lecture: Kerry Sanders (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

- 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 19

- 7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
- 9:00am Sandwich Making Justa Center (Founders Hall)
- 9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
- 4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 22

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

FEATURED SPEAKER EVENT:



KERRY SANDERS, JOURNALIST

“Inside the Business of Television News”

Monday March 16, 2026 4:00 PM

Kerry Sanders is a renowned journalist with over 40 years of experience, celebrated for his exceptional reporting and engaging storytelling. As a prominent correspondent for NBC News, he has covered some of the most significant events in recent history, establishing himself as a trusted voice in television news.

*****This is a free event. All are welcome*****

TODAY

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Congregation

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP IN FOUNDERS HALL: Each year we hold an Annual Meeting at which important business items are addressed. The Annual Report will be distributed at the meeting and posted to the website.

We are required to have a quorum, which is at least ten-percent of our congregation, at the meeting.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

559

1. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be-side?
 2. All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind-ing path I tread,
 3. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; oh, the full-ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten-der mer-cy, who through life has been my Guide?
 gives me grace for ev-ery tri-al, feeds me with the liv-ing bread.
 Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised in my Fa-ther's house a-bove.

Heaven-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, here by faith in him to dwell!
 Though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, and my soul a-thirst may be,
 When my spir-it, clothed im-mor-tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

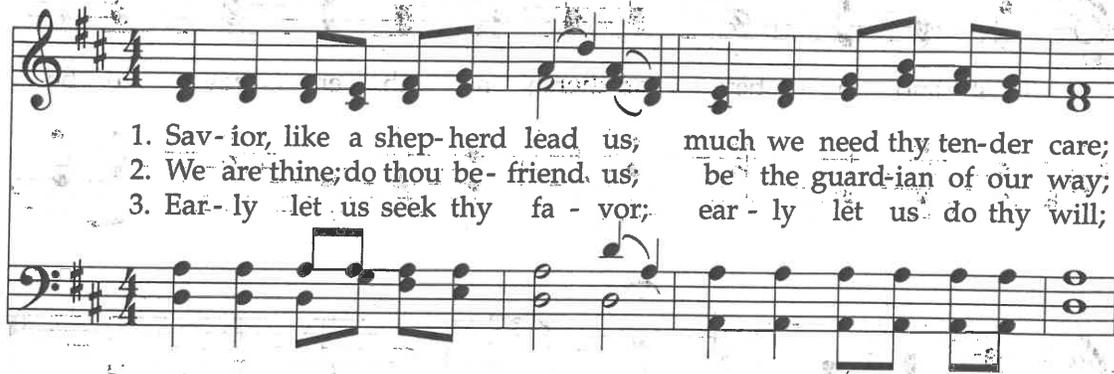
For I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well; well.
 gush-ing from the Rock be-fore me, Lo! a spring of joy I see; see.
 this my song through end-less a-ges: Je-sus led me all the way; way.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1875

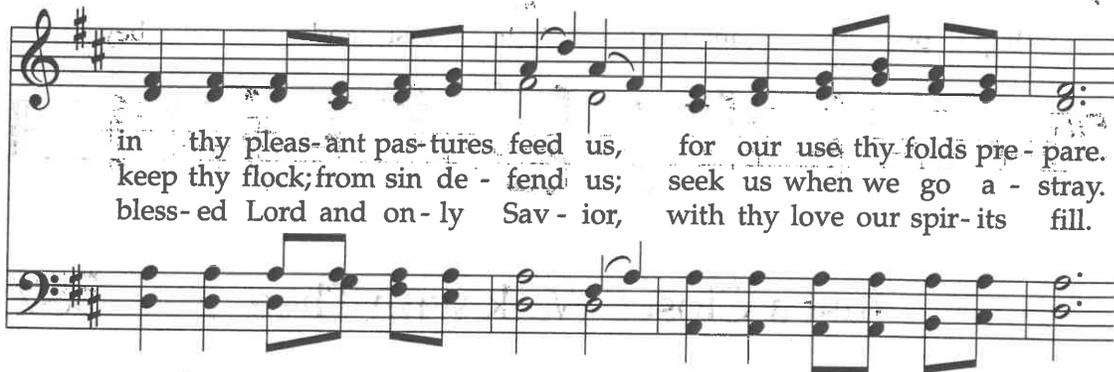
ALL THE WAY
 87.87D w. repeat

558

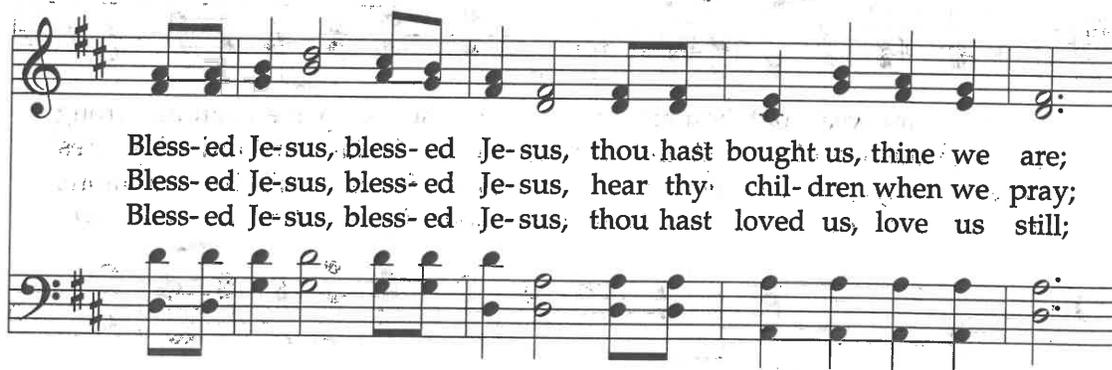
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us



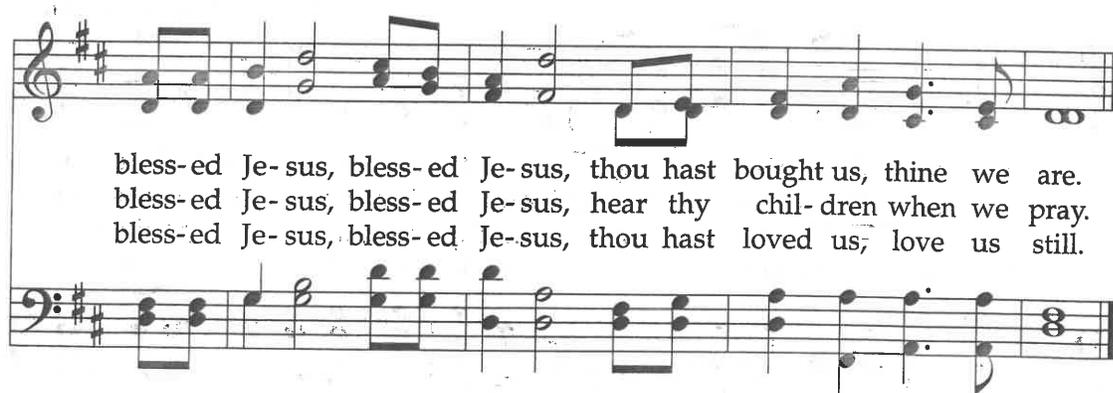
1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need thy ten-der care;
 2. We are thine; do thou be- friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;
 3. Ear-ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;



in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre- pare.
 keep thy flock; from sin de- fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav - ior, with thy love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;



bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray.
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
 87:87D



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 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"