

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

June 28, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

As our series The Church Alive continues through the book of Acts, we see another defining mark of a Spirit-filled life: faithfulness in suffering. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, faces violent opposition with a calm and courageous faith, fixing his eyes not on his persecutors but on the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. In his final moments, Stephen reflects the very heart of Christ—praying for his enemies, entrusting his spirit to the Lord, and bearing witness to a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

His death becomes a powerful testimony that the Holy Spirit enables believers not only to speak boldly in life, but to remain faithful even in suffering. As the early church father Tertullian famously wrote, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” Stephen’s witness reminds us that what looks like defeat in the world becomes, in God’s hands, the advance of His kingdom.

Whatever trials we face, we are called to lift our eyes beyond our circumstances and trust in Christ, who stands with His people, strengthens them by His Spirit, and promises that suffering and death will never have the final word.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

A Gentle Alleluia

(Sorenson)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: We lift up our eyes to the hills. From where does our help come?

Pastor: Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

People: He who keeps us will neither slumber nor sleep.

Pastor: Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

People: We come today to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Pastor: Though trials may come and the world may rage, Christ reigns and His kingdom cannot be shaken.

People: Therefore we will worship with faith, hope, and joy.

All: Let us worship God, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise*

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

#699

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that our eyes are often fixed on ourselves rather than on Your Son. We are quick to become angry and slow to forgive. We resist Your Spirit, cling to our pride, and seek comfort more than faithfulness. When following Christ becomes costly, we shrink back. When we are wronged, we harbor resentment instead of extending grace. When fear rises within us, we forget that Jesus reigns in glory and stands with His people. Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse our hearts and renew our minds. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may bear witness to Christ, 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

The Staff of Faith

(Courtney)

**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 7:54-60

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a

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 The pictures that have been sent in so far are wonderful! Hope that all of you are enjoying them as much as we are. Keep them coming!



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 **116; 184** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by Rog & Sharon Severson: In celebration of their 33rd wedding 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 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 summer months of July and August, our Community Prayer service will be held online via Microsoft TEAMS. Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to be included, please contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org. for an email invite to join online. It's easy and you are able to participate anywhere you have internet access, phone or computer.



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 29

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, June 30

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

Wednesday, July 1

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (online)

Thursday, July 2

No activities scheduled

Friday, July 3

No activities scheduled

Saturday, July 4

No activities scheduled

Sunday, July 5

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

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

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.



Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Descant

3. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King! The ris - en Christ a - dore!
 2. God's reign can nev - er fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
 3. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come

to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home:

Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ev - er - more:
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
 to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home:

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; desc. Sydney H. Nicholson, c. 1945

DARWALL'S 148th
 66.66.88



Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

The image shows a musical score for three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef. The middle staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef. The lyrics are 'Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!' repeated on the first and second staves. The music consists of simple chords and a single melodic line.

Be Thou My Vision

595

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE
10 10.9 10



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.

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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)
Jared Reisinger (Technology)*

*Julie Peacock (Education)
Nancy Sheppard (Worship)
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Linda Smiley (Fellowship)
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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"