

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

August 2, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Does Prayer Work?

Acts 12:1-17

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges of the Christian life, yet it also raises some of our deepest questions. If God already knows our needs, why pray? And if we pray faithfully, why are some prayers answered the way we hope while others are not?

In Acts 12, the church prays fervently for both James and Peter. James is martyred, while Peter is miraculously delivered from prison. The same praying church, the same faithful God, yet two very different outcomes. What do we make of this?

The French philosopher and Christian thinker Blaise Pascal wrote, "God has established prayer to communicate to His creatures the dignity of being causes." In His sovereignty, God chooses to accomplish many of His purposes through the prayers of His people. Prayer does not change God's mind; rather, God graciously invites us to participate in His work. As we pray, we become instruments through whom He carries out His will.

Today we explore what this remarkable story teaches about prayer, God's sovereignty, and the confidence we can have that our prayers are never wasted, even when God's answers differ from our expectations.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Come and Find the Quiet Center

#575

Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

People: We come to seek God's presence and place our trust in Him.

Pastor: When fear surrounds us and hope seems distant, God hears the cries of His people.

People: We lift our prayers with confidence, knowing God is faithful.

Pastor: Whether our prayers are whispered in uncertainty or offered with bold faith, God invites us to draw near.

People: We come to worship the One who hears, who loves, and who works in ways beyond our understanding.

All: Let us worship God.

**Hymn of Praise*

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#560

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Merciful God, You invite us to pray, yet we often rely more on our own strength than on Your grace. We confess that we are quick to worry, slow to trust, and sometimes doubtful that our prayers matter. Forgive us for our fear, our impatience, and our lack of faith. Renew our hearts, deepen our trust in You, and teach us to pray with humility and hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

**Please stand as you are able*

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

All Are Welcome at the Table

(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

Acts 12:1-17

¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent

his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”¹² As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying.¹³ When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer.¹⁴ On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate.¹⁵ They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.”¹⁶ Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate they saw him and were amazed.¹⁷ He motioned to them with his hand to be silent and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the brothers and sisters.” Then he left and went to another place.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *The Prayer with Lead Us, Lord* (arr. Fettke)

Sermon *"Does Prayer Work"*

**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

**The Apostle's 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.

***Closing Hymn**

I Need Thee Every Hour

#578

Charge and Benediction

***Closing Response**

Threefold Amen

***Postlude**

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Air from "Water Music" (G.F. Handel), Praise Him! Praise Him! (Allen), Above All (Baloche and LeBlanc)

Communion: Oh, Rest in the Lord (Mendelssohn), In Remembrance of Me (Red), Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken (Hodges)

Postlude: God Be with You Till We Meet Again (#434)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens and Sara Bruton

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Elaine Betsch

Communion Steward: Darrel & Rhonda Brenner, Deb Barth, and Pastor Steve

Refreshment Stewards: Charla Smith and Tom Reinarts

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Deb Barth

Tellers: Jan Stegmann and Ian Spaeth

Ushers: Keith & Elaine Betsch

Road Signs: Bill Hickman, Ric Doerflinger, and Tom Young

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 **67: 37** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Kathie Sankey in celebration of their 50th 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 again in the Fall. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 at Sundays service. We want to stay connected and share your joy! Send us a picture on the lake, on a cruise, on the beach, spending time with family, wherever your summer away takes you.

Send pictures to Tami Burke at officemanager@verdefaith.org



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 was included in the July bulletin. If you missed it, and would like a copy please contact the office.

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, August 3

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (via Teams Meeting)

11:00am Bible Study w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)

Thursday, August 6

No activities scheduled

Friday, August 7

No activities scheduled

Saturday, August 8

No activities scheduled

Sunday, August 9

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY: 9AM TO 2PM

FRIDAYS: CLOSED





COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES

Adult Education Series

Wednesday's @ 11:00 in Founders Hall

Tim Keller – What We Believe: Foundations

August 5 — Sin (Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–9)

August 12 — Incarnation (Philippians 2:1–11) No In-Person Study

August 19 — Salvation (Ephesians 1:3–10)

August 26 — The Holy Spirit (John 14:15–26)

September 2 — The Church (Ephesians 2:11–22)

September 9 — The End of History (Revelation 21:1–6; 22:1–5)

Community Prayer – Summer Schedule

During the summer month of August, our Community Prayer service will be held
online via

Microsoft TEAMS, Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to join Pastor Steve for prayer, please

Contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org for an email invite.

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



560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

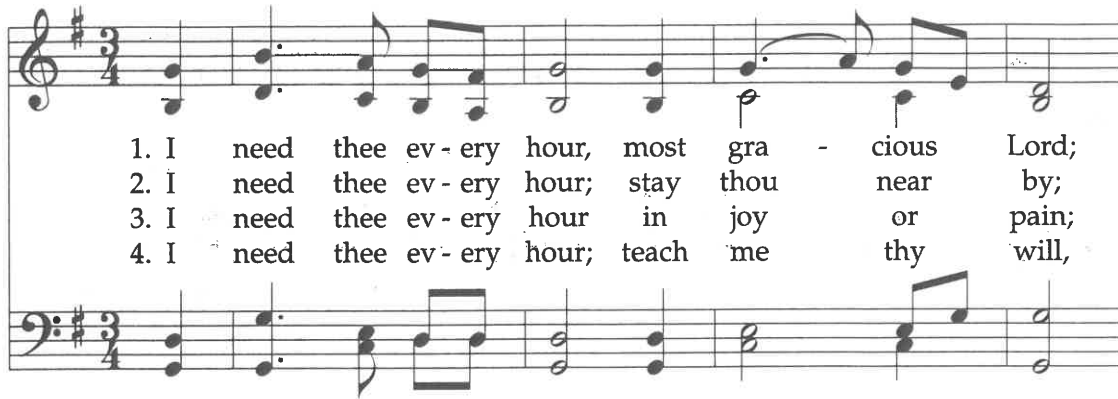
1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,
 lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. *Refrain* Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus
 lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus,
 ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

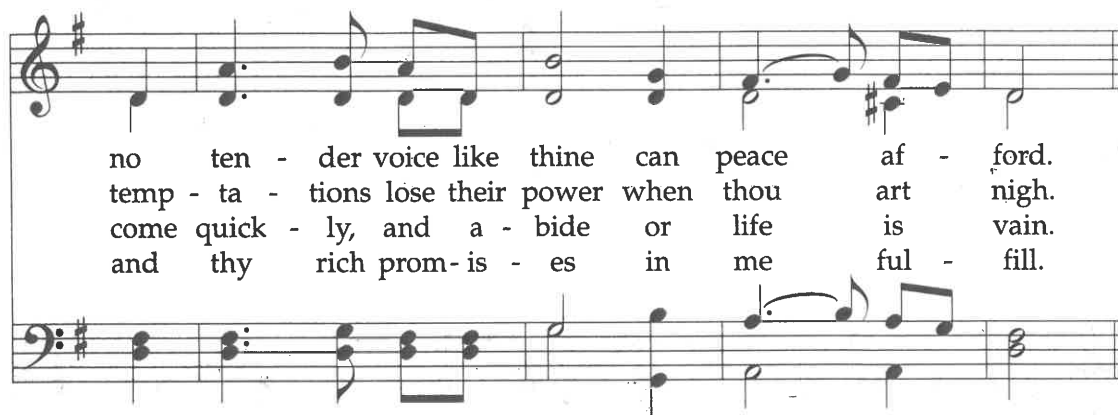
SHOWALTER
 10 9.10 9 w. refrain

I Need Thee Every Hour

578

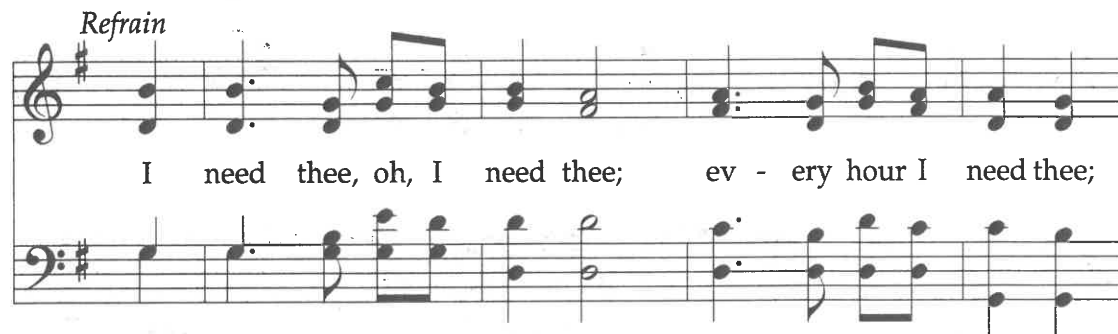


1. I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2. I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near by;
 3. I need thee ev - ery hour in joy or pain;
 4. I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy will,

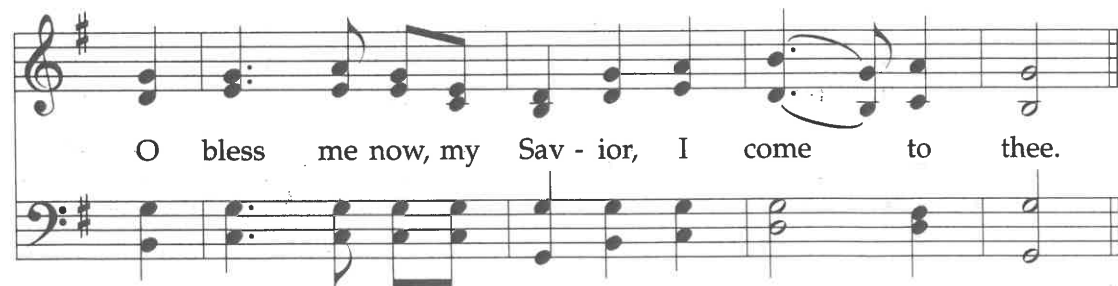


no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly, and a - bide or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

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
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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
Friday – Closed
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

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Rod Bulcher (Facilities)
Kim Dadlani (Finance)
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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"