

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

September 6, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Acts 20: 17-38

In Acts 20, Paul gathers with the elders of Ephesus for what he knows will be their final goodbye. There are tears, embraces, and a deep sense of loss. Paul loves these people, and he knows he will likely never see them again. Yet he does not cling to them. He entrusts them to God and continues the journey to which God has called him.

*That raises an important question for all of us: **What does it mean to love someone deeply while still being willing to place them in God's hands?** Faith does not mean that we care less. In fact, sometimes faith means loving more deeply-and trusting more completely.*

The Heidelberg Catechism begins with this profound question:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*And its answer begins: **"That I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death-to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ."***

*Today we will consider what it means to hold the people and things we love with open hands-to cherish them without clinging, to grieve when we must let go, and to trust that **"all things must work together for our salvation."** Because we belong to Christ, we can face even the hardest goodbyes with hope, knowing that wherever the journey leads, we and those we love remain in the faithful hands of God.*

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Surely the Presence of the Lord

#263

Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear?

People: *The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Pastor: One thing have we asked of the Lord, and this we seek:

People: *That we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.*

Pastor: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

People: *We wait for the Lord with hope and trust.*

Pastor: Come, let us worship the living God.

**Hymn of Praise*

Lift High the Cross

#108

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Merciful God, You are our light and our salvation, yet we confess that we often turn away from your ways. You long to gather us under your care, but we resist your grace and follow our own paths. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and lead us again in the way of Christ. Through Jesus our Lord. 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.

Assurance of Pardon

*Please stand as you are able

**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

Blessed Be Your Name

(Redman)

**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 20: 17-38

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. ¹⁸ When they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. ²² And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace. ²⁵ "And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. ²⁹ I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold

or clothing. ³⁴ You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. ³⁵ In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ³⁶ When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. ³⁷ There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *All the Way My Savior Leads Me* (arr. Fettke)

Sermon *"Saying Goodbye"*

**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***

To God Be the Glory

#72

Charge and Benediction

****Closing Response***

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

#434

****Postlude***

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: March Magnifique (Williams), Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (arr. Parks), Before You I Kneel (A Worker's Prayer) (arr. McDonald)

Communion: Lamb of God (Paris), One Bread, One Body (Foley), I Am Thine, O Lord (Doane)

Postlude: I Love Your Church, O God (#274)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens and Sara Bruton

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Diane Spang

Communion Steward: Sue & John Cole, Bob Dietsche, and Pastor Steve

Refreshment Stewards: Nancy Lowe, Sue Cole, and Connie Lewis

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Lily Ann Bence

Lector: Bob Dietsche

Tellers: Jan Stegmann and Judy Dorwart

Ushers: Terri and Denny Meyers

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 **90:** and **217** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Deb Barth in loving memory of Chuck on the 1st anniversary of his passing.

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.

SEPTEMBER 13TH

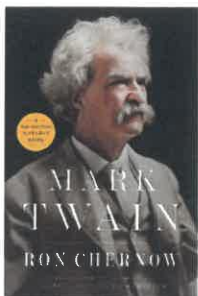
Title: The Whole World is His Possession

Scripture: Acts 23:12-24

SEPTEMBER 20TH

Title: Stuck in the Wrong Place

Scripture: Acts 24:24-27



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 we wrap up our photo session for the season, we wanted to thank everyone that shared their life with us this summer! It was so much fun seeing pictures of you in different countries, other states, other areas of our beautiful state, being with your families and just relaxing. We would definitely like to do this again for next season if everyone enjoyed it.

Hope to see you all back in person at church soon!
Your church family misses you!



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. 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, September 7

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

*****Office is Closed in Observance of Labor Day**

Tuesday, September 8

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

Wednesday, September 9

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

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

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

Thursday, September 10

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

Friday, September 11

No activities scheduled

Saturday, September 12

No activities scheduled

Sunday, September 13

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

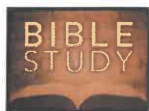
OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY: 9AM TO 2PM

FRIDAYS: CLOSED

*****OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**





COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES

Adult Education Series

Wednesday's @ 11:00 in Founders Hall

Tim Keller – What We Believe: Foundations

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

Community Prayer

Community Prayer with Pastor Steve is back in person and held in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team for The Community Church of the Verdes has been formed to assist Pastor Steve Beard in his mission for our church. The team will walk alongside individuals by providing visitation, communion, listening, and prayer to those facing crisis, illness, or life transitions.

Your Pastoral Care Team members are: Donna Angiolillo, Diane Bronson, Julie Dadlani, Debbie Etcheson, Gary Etcheson, Lois Halberg, and Gary Hedstrom.

Refrain (Unison)

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

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

Fine

Harmony

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

hosts of the 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.

D.C.

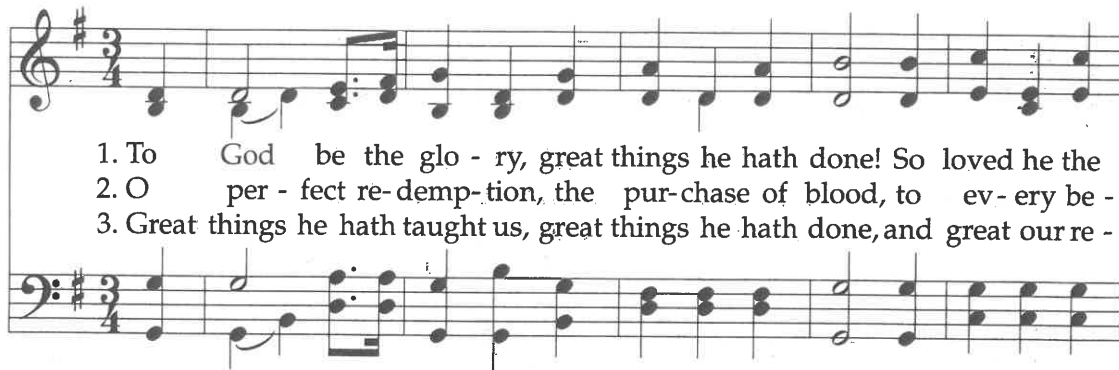
WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916

© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

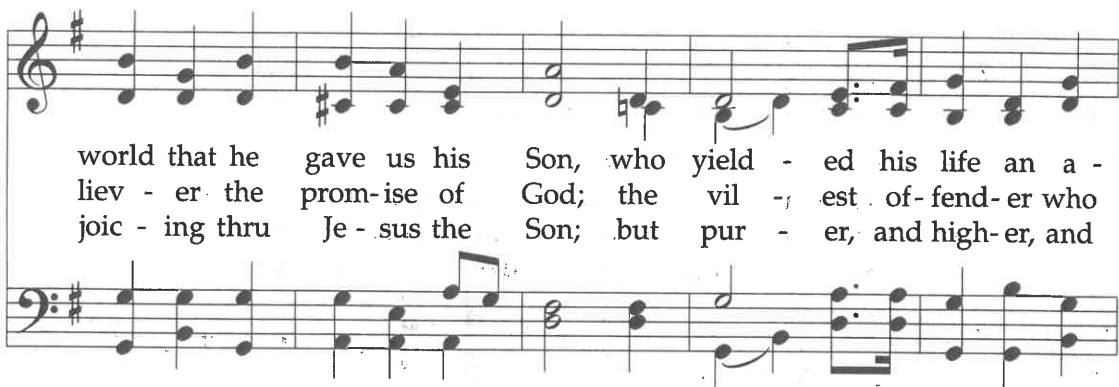
CRUCIFER
10.10 w. refrain

$\text{♩} = 56-60$

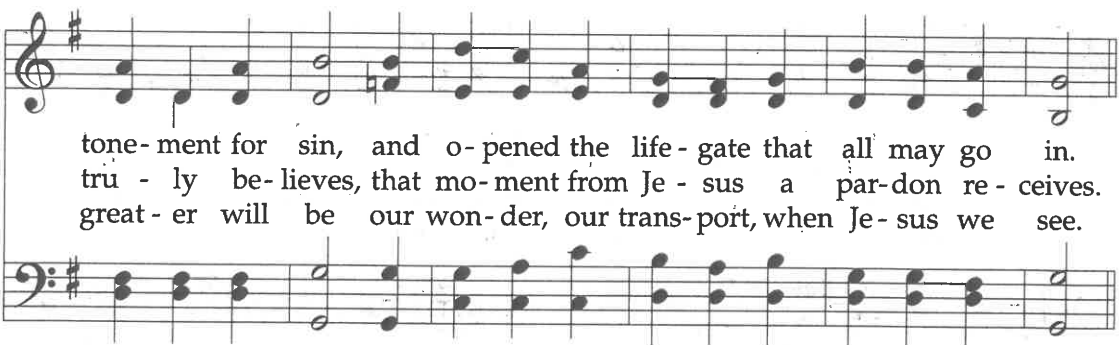
To God Be the Glory



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

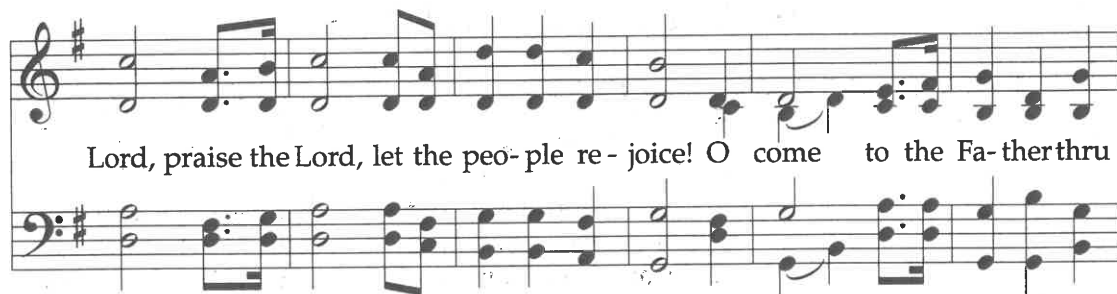


Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

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

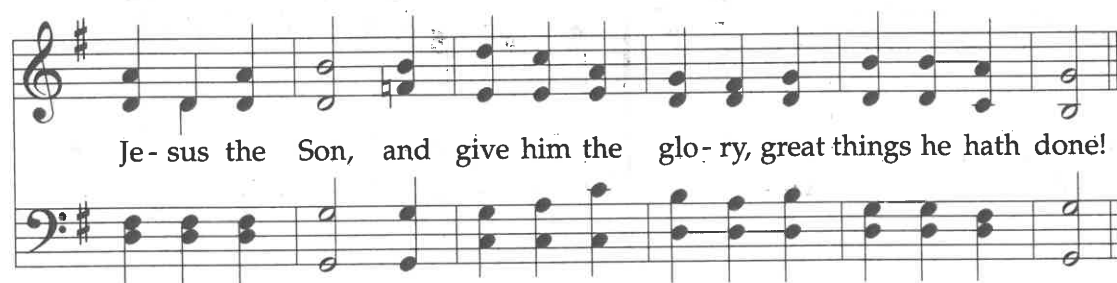
TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11 11.11 11 w. refrain

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 sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.



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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody concludes with a final note, and the bass staff accompaniment ends with a sustained chord. 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 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 — 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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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"