



Sunday Worship
May 4, 2025

**3rd Sunday of
Easter**



Rev. Drew Terry
Pastor/Teacher

Jose Solórzano
*Music Ministry
Director*

Council Members:

Jose Solórzano
– *Moderator*

Paul Oslund
– *Vice Moderator*

Myra Downing
– *Secretary*

Pari Foster

Charles Kuester

Oro Valley United Church of Christ

Our Mission

We are enthusiastic, spiritual
followers of Christ practicing inclusive
worship of God.

Our Vision

Through covenantal relationships we
promote:

- Benevolence
- Mission and Outreach
- Justice for all

Phone: 520-742-7333
office@orovalleyucc.org
www.orovalleyucc.org

Joyfully an Open and Affirming Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Louise Bayer

Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed - To set up, host, and clean up after fellowship hour. If you are interested in hosting a Sunday, please contact Nancy Weimer.

Usher Volunteer - Usher volunteers are needed to help Sunday mornings set up/prepare the sanctuary for worship and close the sanctuary. Please speak with Warren Weimer for more information.

Special Congregation Meeting - Background: In previous years, financial decisions have needed to be made by the council to successfully navigate the fall season. One measure recommended has been to establish a credit line to be used in case contributions fall below the level where day to day expenses can be covered. We are close to having all documentation in place to establish this tool.

- **Will you approve of continuing in the implementation of the OVUCC Credit Line as provided by Cornerstone Fund and as requested by the OVUCC Council**

Mission for Mobility – Join Vera Shury on Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 - 12:15 in the Church Fellowship Hall. It's cool, fun and free! Activities keep us moving and mobile. Vera is a certified coach and congregational health leader. Come try it out!

Grief & Emotional Support – Confidential, one on one, certified, "helping to heal" – submit email anytime to Pari Foster: ovpf1945@gmail.com – responses will be sent M-F / 10AM-5PM

GODLY PLAY at OVUCC (for preschool to elementary age students) - Takes place in our Sunday School Room (Library) off Fellowship Hall. Taught by Jade Terry and Karen Gatlin - Upcoming Spring Session begins April 27 and ends May 18, 2025. Students are signed in and dropped off by their parent or guardian before worship (around 9:55 AM) and remain in class until the end of worship, when they are picked up by their adult(s). Contact Jade or Karen with questions.

Savaya Coffee will resume in fall! – Pastor Drew will resume hosting Savaya Coffee hours in the fall.

Fellowship Lunch – Wednesday May 14th at noon, Pei Wei at Tucson Casas Adobes 633 W Ina Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704. If you would like to join the OVUCC monthly luncheon, please RSVP by contacting Pari Foster at parifoster@gmail.com or 520-283-7662.

† Passing of the Peace

(Stand as you are able in body or spirit and wave or send signs of peace and greetings of love to those around you. If you are able, wave to our camera in the back to send peace and love to those at home. For those at home, we invite you to wave back and send a message of peace via text, email or even a phone call to someone in your heart.)

† Call to Worship

(Congregation will sing)

**Surely the presence of our God is in this place.
I can feel Your mighty power and Your grace.
I can feel the brush of angels' wings.
I see glory on each face.
Surely, the presence of our God is in this place**

Pastor & Congregation will speak responsively.

Leader: We are gathered in the presence of the Risen Christ, who remains with us forever.

**People: When we abide in the love of Christ,
love, joy, and peace grow.**

Leader: We are rooted in Christ's love, that we may bear these fruits together. With the faithfulness of race and nation we sing:

**People: Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto God,
forever and ever. Amen.**

† Opening Hymn

“Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

NCH 243

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
Jesus on the cross as Savior
for the world's salvation bled;
But the crucified Redeemer
now is risen from the dead!

Christ is risen, we are risen!
shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of your face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be
And by angel hands be gathered,
and be yours eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia!
glory be to God of joy;
Alleluia to the Savior
who came death's bonds to destroy
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty!

† Opening Prayer

Rev. Rich Smith

O Risen One, come to us this day. Transform shadows to sunlight. Come to us and and soften the sounds of our cries. Wake us and move us to dance. Sing in us songs of peace. Appear in the simple and unexpected, delighting and surprising us. O Risen One, come to us this day. Turn toward us as we

turn toward you and one another in joy. **Amen.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Pastor and Congregation

Leader: Confession is an act of courage, because if we ignore what's wrong, we don't have to deal with it. Confession is an act of resistance in an empire that demands satisfaction with the status quo. And confession is an act of grace because it opens – God opens – the door to new life beyond our deserving. Let us enter boldly and prayerfully this time of courage, resistance, and grace.

All: **Infinitely Loving One, we trust in you, but can you trust in us? You have made beauty that fades and returns to dust so that beauty might blossom anew. We have made soda bottles and fast food trays, auto bodies and nuclear waste that last beyond usefulness and poison the earth. You have called creation a community to be loved while we have seen it as a slave to be mastered. You have created abundance to be shared by all that breathes, which we have hoarded while others starve. Forgive us for not seeing, for despairing, for going along to get along. We long to renew our lives and walk tenderly upon the earth.**

Words of Grace

Rev. Rich Smith

Leader: If confession requires courage, then perhaps receiving forgiveness requires even more courage. For it means that we can no longer wallow in our sins and we have to do something. We are beloved children of God and we have to act like it. God loves you. God forgives you. God calls you to new life, beyond your wildest imagination. So take courage. You're gonna need it.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith: adapted by Robert V. Moss
(All will recite together with Lay Reader, Pari Foster)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in His passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Rich Smith and Congregation

(If you are writing a check, Payee must read: "Oro Valley United Church of Christ" – No initials or abbreviations accepted)

The gifts that we bring to this community compound and create resurrection power, helping us to awaken wholeness in the broken, strength in the weakened, and liberation for all living in the midst of injustice. Let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

Offertory

"Thou Art Worthy"

Jose Solórzano, Piano

+ Doxology

Tune No. 809

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lay Leader, Pari Foster

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors, and do our part to liberate all who are experiencing oppression, we dedicate these gifts.

All: **Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world.**

+ Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-20 – P 1706

Lay Reader, Pari Foster

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer

*Including prayers you have requested and a Minute of Silence
(During special music time today, you may participate in the post-it prayer request exchange. You may do so by writing down a prayer on the post-it note provided in your bulletin, bringing it forward during the special music time, and exchange it for a prayer already posted on the board. After prayers are brought forth, we shall join in speaking The Lord's Prayer.)*

Special Music

"Room at the Cross for You"

Jose Solórzano, Piano

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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.

† Communion Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" NCH 347

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. **[Refrain]**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! **[Refrain]**

Service of Communion

INVITATION

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You praise God, for Your beauty, goodness, creating power and providential care: in making the world; establishing the covenant; teaching us how to care for one another and creation, speaking truth through the prophets; showing mercy in spite of our violence, selfishness and systems of oppression; and giving us the love of God in the gift of Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving and faith, we remember the Lord Jesus, born into our world, breathing our air, celebrating our humanity, building community with all people of all ages, the despised, the popular, the powerful and meek, mourning our losses, dying in our state sanctioned violence, faithful to everything God laid before him, and steadfast in his redeeming love for us. In resurrection he showed us that death and all that leads to death can be overcome by this life and love.

Holy Spirit, draw us into communion with Christ and with one another; to nourish us in Christ's body and in the beloved community You are making; to keep us faithful in ministry; and to hasten the coming of the reign of God, with justice and beauty.

Let us join together singing God's wonder:

Sung Response "*Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)*" NCH #793
Traditional Brazilian

Santo, Santo, Santo, mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Dios.
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores You!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.
(repeat)

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

When we share whatever elements we have
we remember that Jesus was strongest and most powerful
in his weakest and most vulnerable moments.
This broken loaf is the bread of life.

When we fill this cup we remember the common cup, and the
abundant blessings that have been entrusted to us.
This is the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the People of God,
Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving¹

**O God, with gratitude and praise
You have blessed and fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil,
to remind us that in You, everything is already alright.
Make us children of remembrance
so that the story of You and Your people lives on in us.
Send us from this place with purpose and in Your power,
blessed, transformed and bent toward the arc of justice
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

¹ <https://mlp.org/document/black-history-month-communion-liturgy/>

† Benediction

Rev. Rich Smith

Go forth from this place with your eyes wide open
as you journey into the wider world.
Love God and see Christ in each person you meet.
Give thanks always
and do not withhold love from any,
for we do not know who may yet turn to the light.
By God's grace, it might even be you!
Amen.

† Sending Forth Song

Tune No. 840

**God be with you till we meet again,
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.

Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heaven-ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo-rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con-quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav-en, here on earth may fruit-ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.



Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.

Tochter Sion, Cologne, 1741

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975