



Sunday Worship
April 5th, 2026

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

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Joyfully an Open and Affirming Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Drew Terry

Hospitality Ministry & Fellowship Time - You are invited to join us for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall after worship each Sunday. This "table fellowship" is an important time. A new year's signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall today. If you feel called to help host (to set up, host), you are welcome. Nancy Weimer and Karen Gatlin are official team members. Questions? Contact Nancy (office@orovalleyucc.org) or Karen (karenlougatlin@gmail.com). "Thank you" to our volunteers who help as needed and to those who regularly share a special treat!

Coffee Hours - Pastor Drew will host coffee hours on Wednesday April 15th, from 10 to 11:30. 11177 N Oracle Rd, Oro Valley, AZ 85737.

Mission for Mobility – Join Vera Shury on Mondays and Wednesdays, 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!

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.

Fellowship Lunch! – We will meet at 12 Noon, Wednesday, April 8 at Noble Hops, 1335 W Lambert Ln., Oro Valley AZ 85737. If you would like to join the monthly luncheon, please RSVP by contacting Pari Foster at 520-283-7662 parifoster@gmail.com.

Dinner for Eight. Sign up! Sign-up sheet is on the shelf in the narthex. This delightful evening will require only a good appetite and a donation to our church of \$15 per person. Y'all come!!

Golden Vocation: April 14, 21, and 28 from 10am-11:30 am in the fellowship hall. This is a spiritual formation program for discernment of God's call in the aging process. What does aging mean for vocation? What gifts and challenges does aging bring to living a faithful witness? How must one respond to God's call to service? The three week program seeks to explore these questions in conversation with scripture and one another. Please let Rev. Drew know if you intend to attend these sessions.

Church Council meeting – Sunday, April 19, at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

† **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**

Inspired by Psalm 118

(Pastor & Congregation will speak/sing responsively)

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!

One: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!

One: God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory! Exalt God's holy name!

All: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!

† **Opening Prayer**

Rev. Drew Terry

Holy One, just as they came to the tomb to honor You on that early Easter morning, we gather to praise You this day. May our alleluias resound in adoration and shared joy that you are risen and we share in the promise of new life. May we encounter your glory in this assembled community as we follow you from the empty tomb into the possibilities that await. **Amen.**

† **Opening Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

NCH 233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where O death is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, o grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Prayer of Transformation and Restoration Pastor and Congregation
Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Jesus, you have demonstrated the path of your kingdom, keep us on the road of abundant and transformed life as revived and encouraged participants in your resurrected and glorified body. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace¹

Rev. Drew Terry

Beloved, Jesus is risen. The Holy One is yet alive, and therefore, doing a new thing. Receive the grace of God that requires no resurrection to rise to meet us in our weakness. Embrace the grace of God to move forward boldly in new life. Hold fast to the grace of God to guide you in living the resurrected life. **Amen**

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith: adapted by Robert V. Moss

(All will recite together with Lay Reader, Vera Shury)

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.

(Continued)

¹ <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/resurrection-sunday-a-april-5/>

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.

Welcoming of New Members

Invitation

Sentences

Questions of the Candidate

Affirmation of Faith

Address

Question about Participation in the Church

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of Oro Valley United Church of Christ express our welcome to our new members and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Prayer for Reception of New Member and Community

Greeting in Christian Love

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Drew Terry

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

Alexander Carmichael said, "The people say that the sun dances on this day in joy for a risen Saviour." Whether clouds obscure the view, the sun takes the gifts it has been given to glorify God. Let us also take the gifts we have been given and use them to bring glory to the Holy One through the generosity of the resurrected life that proclaims that nothing is impossible for God.

Offertory

"In The Garden"

OVUCC Easter Choir

† 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 Thanksgiving²

Vera Shury, Lay Reader

Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for Your generosity. Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community and to witness to Your goodness. We dedicate them to the flourishing of Your kindom. Amen.

² <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-c-april-17/>

† **Scripture Reading**

Vera Shury, Lay Reader

John 20:1-18

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Drew Terry

Empty Tomb, Empty Cloth, New Life

Special Music

"Because He Lives"

Jose Solorzano, piano

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 exchanging it for a prayer already posted on the board. After prayers are brought forth, we shall join in singing The Lord's Prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

(Congregation sings)

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.

Service of Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: On the night of betrayal, denial, and desertion, Jesus prepared his disciples for life beyond the tomb. He demonstrated with wine and bread what he would later perform in his flesh and blood.

All: Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice.

One: Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table. Will you come?

All: In awe and wonder, humility and thanksgiving, we come to the table to feast with the Risen One.

One: So we sing:

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 Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray.

Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the Highest! Amen

† Hymn

“Lord of the Dance”

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

REFRAIN:

**Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.

REFRAIN

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they
hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die.

REFRAIN

(continued)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on. **REFRAIN**

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. **REFRAIN**

† **Benediction**³

Rev. Drew Terry

May the tomb be just a stop
Reminding us that God's reign knows no bounds
The realm of God's possible knows no limits
God's presence always remains
God's protection endures
God's glory radiates the day and the night
And the power of Christ lives in us.

May we go forth from the tomb
Renewed and rededicated to witness to this good news
To live the resurrected life in spirit and in truth
And to be the good news in the world God loves.

All: Amen

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Halleluiah!

† **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.**

³ Ibid

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluia
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1706

Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter, 1963

19th Century Shaker Tune

Unison G Em Bm Em Am

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
3. I danced on the sab - bath when I cured the lame, the ho - ly peo - ple
4. I danced on a Fri - day and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that - 'll

stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung
dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and
nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Refrain Bm Em Am D7 C G G Bm

danced on the earth, At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

- ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

C D7 G C G

lead you all in the dance, said he.

19th Century Shaker tune, adapted by Sydney Carter, 1963
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