



**Sunday Worship  
June 1, 2025**

**Breaking Chains  
A Celebration of  
Recovery**  
with Minister  
Gordon Street

**Ascension  
Sunday**

**7th 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

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Joyfully an Open an Affirming Congregation

**Celebration of Recovery Sunday Today, June 1** – We welcome Gordon Street III, Conference Minister to the pulpit today. Gordon is a minister commissioned by the Southwest Conference who focuses on helping people find their own spiritual connections with God of their understanding. We will share Communion as well. Come to Fellowship following worship and meet Gordon and celebrate the many miracles of healing and renewed lives all around us.

**Council Meeting** – Regular Council Meeting will take place Sunday June 8, at fellowship hall, after fellowship time – approximately 11:30 AM.

**Fellowship “Lite” for Summer** – Today we continue a “lite” fellowship time after worship. We are going to keep it simple (think “coffee and cookies”) this summer with just beverages and treats of some kind. We’ll have an occasional special Sunday or two. You are free to add to that lite menu by bringing additional items. **Volunteers are still needed** to set up, host, and clean up after fellowship hour. Our regular team will be in and out of town, so we’ll need your assistance. If you are interested in hosting a Sunday, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Nancy Weimer.

**June Fellowship Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at Noon:** All are welcome to join for the monthly luncheon where we gather together to eat and share life with one another (and have a little fun)! **Olive Garden Restaurant**, 11905 N. Oracle Rd, Oro Valley  
\*\*\*Please contact Pari Foster to RSVP by the Monday before, so we can contact our hosts and let them know we are coming. Email Pari: [parifoster@gmail.com](mailto:parifoster@gmail.com); Call Pari: (520) 283-7662

**Photo Directory Revised Edition** – Some important errors and omissions were quickly noticed in the Directory distributed on May 18. New, corrected directories are available in the Narthex today or from the Church Office (one per household). Those unable to pick one up may request an email PDF version by contacting the Office.

**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.

**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](mailto:ovpf1945@gmail.com) – responses will be sent M-F / 10AM-5PM

† **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.*

One: God calls the simple, the weak, the powerless.

**All: God's weakness is stronger than our strength;  
God's foolishness is wiser than our wisdom.**

One: God calls the hopeless, the lonely, the lost.

**All: God's tenderness chooses us in spite of our mistakes;  
God's righteousness saves us in spite of our fears.**

† **Opening Prayer**

Rev. Karen Gatlin

**God asks us each to pick up our cross; God's grace empowers us to do so. God's love looks beyond our past and gives us new names, new lives. God's compassion heals us. God's tender care teaches us to reach out to others in hope. Amen.**

To you, O God all creatures sing,  
and all creation everything  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam,  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Your wind that blows the tempest by,  
your clouds that sail across the sky  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a song,  
and lights of evening sing along,  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Your flowing waters crystal clear,  
make melodies for you to hear,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your fire, bountiful and bright,  
remembering your warmth and light,  
sings your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

To you, O God, day after day,  
your planet earth in every way,  
sings your praises, alleluia,  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower  
show forth your glory and your power,  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Pastor and Congregation

One: God calls us to return.

**All: Return from where? Where have we been?**

One: Sometimes in the busyness of life,  
it's hard to stop and remember what we're doing.  
Let's take a moment to think back over the past week... or month...  
or year. (*silence*)

**All: Let us consider what we have done with our time & energy,  
how we have used our abilities,  
how we have spent our money, how we have treated others,**

One: Where have our hearts been this week, this month? (*silence*)

Like the crack of thunder or an outstretched hand,  
A Higher Power calls us to return.

The Holy One invites us to come home  
from wherever we have let ourselves wander.

**All: Sometimes we have strayed only a little.  
Sometimes we have lost our way. No matter.  
From wherever we are in our lives, God calls us to return,  
to come home to our Higher Power,  
to God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
abounding in steadfast love. Come, let us return to our God.**

## **Words of Grace**

Rev. Karen Gatlin

One: 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, of our higher power, and we have to act like it. You are loved. You are forgiven. A Power greater than yourself calls you to new life, beyond your wildest imagination - so take courage.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Invitation to Generosity**

Rev. Karen Gatlin and Congregation

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

## **Offertory**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" 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 Reader, Pari Foster

**Take our lives, God, and let them be consecrated unto You.  
May the gifts you have given us blossom and grow;  
May we share our experience, strength and hope with those  
who are still hurting;  
May you be our strength, inspiration and guide always. Amen.**

## **† Scripture Reading** 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NRSV) Lay Reader, Pari Foster

**One:** The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

"Filling that Spiritual Void" Minister Gordon Street III  
An Addiction / Recovery Perspective Conversation

## **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.)*

## **Prayer of Recovery**

Rev. Karen Gatlin

One: God of the wounded gospel, God of holy-crazy mercy,  
we praise you that you receive the addicted –  
alcoholics and drug addicts, overeaters,  
gamblers, sex and love addicts –

**All: the vulnerable, the weak, the low, the despised of the world.**

One: Those who are willing to admit: "We are powerless,"  
those who are considered least in the world,  
those who have to lean on your higher power as the Source of life.

**All: These are the ones filled with the good news.  
There is forgiveness!  
There is new life!**

One: Christ has chosen the junkie and the drunk,  
for these are the ones not afraid to cry,  
not afraid to share the love that has been received.  
The cross? These know both what it's like to hold the hammer  
and feel the nails.

**All: But you, cross-foolish God, humble-walking God,  
have all the serenity, all the courage, all the wisdom we will  
ever need. Amen.** *(-adapted from Maren Tirabassi & Joan Jordan Grant)*

### **Special Music**

"The Lord is My Light"

Jose Solórzano, Piano

### **The 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.**

**Take my life, God, let it be  
consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.**

**Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be  
part of Christ's community.**

### **Service of Communion**

#### **INVITATION**

Karen Gatlin and Gordon Street

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Two: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Holy One, we come to you this morning, tired and energetic, serious and silly, young, old, wise, foolish, faithful, doubting, selfish, generous, judgmental and compassionate. We are all of these things, God. We are your people and we lay before you our burdens, faults and concerns so that we may refresh ourselves at your table and find ourselves restored or mending toward wholeness.



## **Communion Prayer**

Two: We remember your child, Jesus, and how he explained to us that you are very, very close, O God, at every moment. And he spent his energy and used his gifts to tell us how we are loved, how exciting your world is for those with eyes to see God's Realm around us here and now. And he reminded us of our value in the eyes of God. He reminded us that we are the very Salt of the Earth – in fact even, the Light of the World.

## **Words of Institution**

One: And now, we remember that night Jesus gathered with his closest friends. Jesus had a sense that his days were numbered – things were getting tense for him. He had protested injustice in the temple marketplace and mocked the ruler of his homeland as he rode a donkey into town. They were angry and looking for him, he knew. So, he looked around the table at those who had followed him closely. And he wondered how he could bind them together to each other – and to him – whether he was physically present to them or not.

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Jesus took the loaf of bread and blessed it, saying, "You see this bread? It symbolizes me. I am sharing myself with you in this food – I share my substance – my love, my energy, who I am. Whenever you share this bread it connects you to me, to God and to each other. Eat this bread now, all of you, knowing that with it, we become one. "The Bread of Life is shared for you"

Two: Then he took the cup of Passover wine and he held it up and showed it to them. He gave thanks to God. Then he said, "You see this cup? It symbolizes my essence, my blood, sweat, and tears – all that is uniquely me. I have given you these things willingly and worked and toiled and cried over you, because I love you. Drink this cup now, and imagine that you receive a little part of my essence. Whenever you drink this cup together, and remember me, I will be there and we will be bound, all of us, in body, mind and spirit. "The Cup of God's Love for you."

One: The gifts of God for the People of God,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Two: All are welcome at this Table!

*- We are using grape juice and gluten free bread at the table this morning. If you come forward down the center aisle, you may receive a piece of bread, holding that bread, you may dip it in the cup and in this way we will remember and receive Christ's presence, through the blessing of the Spirit. -*

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give you thanks God, you are the food for our spirits - nourishing us, strengthening, healing, giving hope. Open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to you. Then, may we be your hands and hearts, reaching out in holy love, to all. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

(continued)

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love Amazing grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine,  
will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

† **Benediction**

Gordon Street

May we all be blessed with serenity, courage, and wisdom as we say:

**God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And wisdom to know the difference. 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.**


Note: Several prayers in this service are adapted from *An Improbable Gift of Blessing*, by Maren Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant.

## To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148


St. Francis of Assisi, 1225  
Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

*Descant*





4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

*Unison*




1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre-a-tion, ev-ery-  
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a-cross the  
 3 Your flow-ing wa-ters, crys-tal clear, make mel-o-dies for you to  
 4 To you, O God, day af-ter day, your plan-et earth in ev-ery





ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! As fruit, fra-grant

*(Harmony)* *(Unison)*



thing sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en  
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your morn-ing ris-es with a  
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti-ful and  
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia, As sa-vory fruit and fra-grant



Miriam Therese Winter described her thoughts about adapting this text: "As I entered into communion with the word and spirit of the hymn, I felt called to enable that unknown-to-me poet's wisdom to live on into the future, a moving commission, and also felt a bond with the one who had gone before."

Harmonization Copyright ©, Oxford University Press. From *The English Hymnal* 1906.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 8.8.4.8.8.8, with alleluia  
 Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Descant, *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993



flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al - le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais - es,  
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais - es, al - le -  
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais - es, al - le -  
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais - es,

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5 Now we who are of ten - der heart,  
 for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our part,  
 sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!  
 To you we lift our pain and care,  
 re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear,  
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen - tle death  
 pre - pares to hush our fi - nal breath,  
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ goes be - fore us to re - new  
 the way that leads us home to you.  
 Hear our prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

# Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.  
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.  
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Alternate tune: HENDON

# AMAZING GRACE (My Chains Are Gone)

1

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Words by JOHN NEWTON  
Traditional American Melody  
Additional Words and Music by CHRIS TOMLIN  
and LOUIE GIGLIO

Moderately slow

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like  
 grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re -  
 Lord has prom - ised good to me, His Word my hope se -  
  
 me, I \_\_\_\_\_ once was lost, but now I'm found, was  
 lieved. How \_\_\_\_\_ pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the  
 cures. He \_\_\_\_\_ will my shield and por - tion be as  
  
 To Coda 1 2  
 blind, but now \_\_\_\_\_ I see. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Twas  
 hour I first \_\_\_\_\_ be - lieved. My chains are gone, \_\_\_\_\_ I've been set  
 long as life \_\_\_\_\_ en -  
  
 free. \_\_\_\_\_ My God, my Sav - ior \_\_\_\_\_ has ran-somed me. \_\_\_\_\_ And like a  
  
 flood, \_\_\_\_\_ His mer - cy rains \_\_\_\_\_ un - end - ing love, \_\_\_\_\_ a - maz - ing  
  
 grace. (Instrumental) D.S. al Coda The