



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

September 24, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Consecration Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Jean Luce

Welcome!

*We're glad you are here to worship with us,
whether in-person or virtually on Zoom or YouTube.*

Gathering the People of God

WELCOME

Pastor Eric O. Ledermann

Please register your attendance with your mobile device by scanning the QR code to the right or by going to www.upctempe.org/fellowship, and completing the form.



Christ be with you!

⌘ **And also with you!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

(480) 256-8216

*Prayers may be texted to the above number,
or call and leave a message.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CENTERING TIME & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

ARR. BARBARA B. KINYON

Handbells

We use this time to center our spirits, bring our attention to God within our breath, and remember that we are connected to all things through the Body of Christ.

Candles remind us of the light of God's love that exists within each human being and every created thing. The candles on the communion table represent the light of community. The single candle near the pulpit is the paschal candle, the light of Christ that shines on and in the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we seek God's blessings,
may also seek God's love.

‡ **Through Christ we have been equipped
for ministries of love and grace.**

As we seek God's blessings,
may also seek God's wisdom.

‡ **Through Christ we have been equipped
for ministries of compassion and justice.**

As we seek God's blessings,
may also seek God's Spirit.

‡ **Through Christ we have been equipped
for ministries of companionship and community.**

Come, let us trust in the love of God
revealed to us in Jesus, our Christ,
and seek to share in God's peace.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you.

‡ **And also with you.**

***HYMN**

"Kum ba Yah"

#472

Ted Gibson, *Guitarist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

‡ **Gracious and loving God,
we have sought after things that do not nourish.**

We have not sought after you.

**We have expected generosity,
yet we have not shown generosity.**

We have not been gracious or grateful.

We have failed to remember your constant love.

We have not cared for the earth.

We have chosen convenience over creation.

**Forgive us and help us to use our gifts
for the work of reconciling the world.**

**Hear our prayers, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.**

Moment for silent reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE¹

People of God,
our sins are forgiven;
we are reconciled to God if we choose to receive it.

**‡ Let us therefore love one another
with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.**

May we live and love in the Way of Christ!

‡ Alleluia! Amen!

***RESPONSE TO GRACE**

“Alleluia!”
(Celtic Alleluia)

#587

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Listening for God’s Word

MOMENT FOR THE CHILDREN

Jean Luce

Children are always welcome in worship. We know they’ll make some noise during the service—we understand and welcome their participation in their own way.

Parents, if needed, at any time during the service you may take your children into the narthex to stretch their legs or to our special children’s corner in the rear of the sanctuary. We offer childcare upon request for children up to 5 years old — please speak to the Elder in Charge in the Narthex.

ANTHEM

"Lay Up Your Treasures In Heaven"
BY PEPPER CHOPLIN

Chancel Choir

"Lay up your treasures in heaven.
O people, lay up your treasures in glory
where nothing in this world can take them away."
O listen, people hear the gospel say,
"Come and lay up your treasures in heaven,
O people, lay up your treasures in glory.
Your treasures in this world will fade away,
but the things of the Lord will last forever more!"

Well the Lord looked out and saw the people there,
tied up in worry and burdened with care.
He said, "Seek first the kingdom and you will see
the things that will last for eternity!"

Some people trust in their silver and gold,
they put their faith in the wealth they hold.
But fortunes will fade and kingdoms fall,
so put your trust in the Lord of all.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING¹

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14.13-23
Matthew 20.1-16

NT pg. 163
NT pg. 21

Word of wisdom,
word of grace.
⌘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Empire Strikes Back - Part 3" Pastor Eric O. Ledermann

Responding to God's Word

***RESPONSE**

"Amen"

#600

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Send prayer requests by texting or leaving a message
at (480) 256-8216.*

PRAYER OF JESUS (Modern)

⌘ **Our Creator in Heaven,
blessed be your name.
Your kin-dom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Keep us from temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory,
are yours now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING¹

OFFERTORY

"I Surrender All"

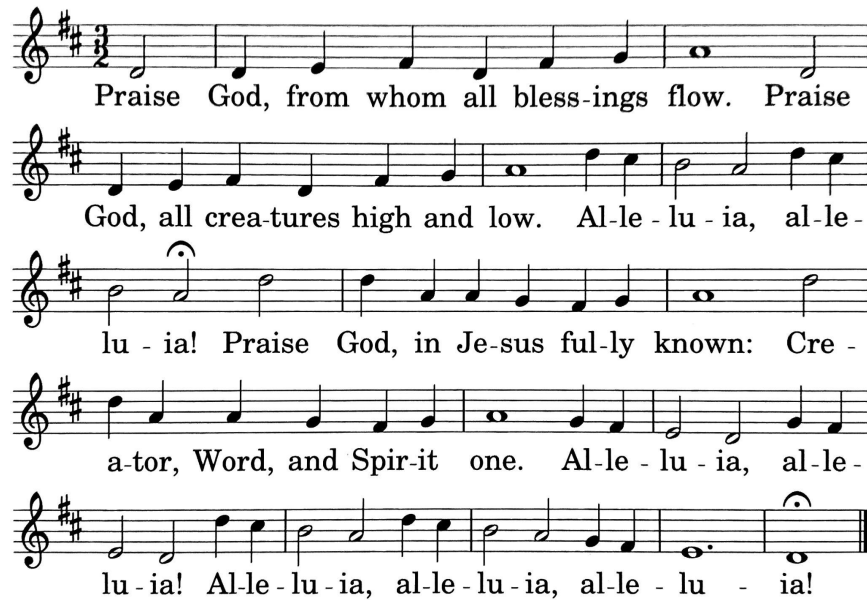
BY WINFIELD S. WEEDEN ARR. JERRY RAY

Ted Gibson,
Pianist

***DOXOLOGY**

“Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

#609



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise
God, all creatures high and low. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
lu - ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre -
a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

TIME OF COMMITMENT

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

***HYMN**

“We Are One in the Spirit”

#609

(They'll Know We Are Christians)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Lay Up Your Treasures In Heaven”

Chancel Choir

BY PEPPER CHOPLIN

***The postlude is a time of reflection
on how God has been present to us during worship,
and is present to us in our daily lives.***

*Remember you are the light of the world!
Let your light shine!*

**Sign up for our Weekly Update email at
www.upctempe.org/email.**

Today's Worship Leaders

Usher in Charge	Larry Seubert
Ushers	Larry Seubert & Team
Worship Techs	Jim Niemann, Bianca Osorio
Trustee on Duty	Carol Rickel
Deacon of the Month	Nancy Martin
Sanctuary Readiness	Larry Seubert

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¹ Adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), Kindle edition loc. 3414ff.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

DEACON HONORARY PLANT: *None given this day*

MEMORIAL BOOK: *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Lillian Yarter, a memorial perpetuated in Handbells by Mike, Sue, Jim & Ron Coleman, February 1986.*

The World: Prayers for peace around the world, especially in places of war, famine, strife.

All elected leaders: The President of the United States, members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, governors, county officials, mayors, and city council members, that they may all work toward peace for our cities, nation, and world.

Continued Prayers: Dennis Gilliland; Betsy Youngs; Carl and Barbara Smith; Jim Phillips; Rob, Chet Henry's brother; Beckie Burke; Diane Watkins.

Homebound: Elaine Murray, Helen Alderson

Birthdays this coming week: Elaine Shelden, Jason Reed, Vicki Jacobs, Linda Kesler, Cheri Hardy, Barbara Gust, Jessica Hardy

*If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office
to let us know the date so we can celebrate with you!*

Elders: Alan Sweeney, Lawn Griffiths, Molly Winkler, Brigitta Kuiper, Pastor Eric Ledermann

Deacons: Nancy Martin, Jim Niemann, Laura Green, Jeanette Miller

Trustees: Carol Rickel, Cheri Hardy, Dan Maloney

Presbytery: Heritage Presbyterian, Glendale, their pastor, unknown and their clerk of session, Dick Avner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S BIBLE TIME (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Rm 2): Bible Time explores lessons to be learned from Old and New Testament scriptures through music, hands-on activities, and stories. All children grades K-4 are welcome

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Youth Room): We have a great group of youth in grades 6-12 who are excited for our upcoming events. Be on the lookout for monthly service projects as part of our regular Sunday fellowship. All middle schoolers (6th-8th grades) and high schoolers (9th-10th grades) are invited to join us on Sunday mornings after worship at 11 am! If you have questions or would like more info, contact Ted Gibson, Christian Education director, at tedgibson@upctempe.org.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sanctuary):

- **Oct. 1** - "Music of the '60s" with Rev. Ken Moe
- **Oct. 8** - "Music of the '70s" with Rev. Ken Moe
- **Oct. 15** - *Poverty by America* led by Faye Gardner

LECTIO DIVINA BIBLE STUDY (Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Zoom): Join us as we read, reflect upon, and study the scripture readings for each upcoming Sunday in the Revised Common Lectionary. The new year, Year A, of the Revised Common Lectionary is available for download: List Form (www.upctempe.org/rcl).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement for our weekly emails and bulletin, submit it to the church office no later than Wednesday of each week. Send it to upc@upctempe.org.

Note: All Zoom meetings may be accessed online via the links provided, or by calling (602) 753-0140 and entering the Meeting ID (the numbers in the weblinks below) and the password, "139." Long distance rates may apply.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON (TODAY! Sep. 24, 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall): The theme this year for Consecration Sunday and Stewardship Season is "Connecting Community." We have been reflecting on how we are connected. Thank you for your prayers and participation. If you have not done so, please return your pledge by Sep. 24th or bring your pledge form to worship this week. Following worship, you are invited to a food-friendly "connection" with your UPC "community." Please bring a dish to share. The Stewardship Committee will provide drinks and desserts. All are welcome!

9TH ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL FALL FESTIVAL AND TALENT SHOW (Sunday Oct. 22, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall). The Congregational Involvement and Outreach Committee again will present the popular night of grassroots variety entertainment and talent show, White Elephant Giveaways, and tacos. Looking for singers, ensembles, instrumentalists, dancers, comic acts, readers, tumblers, and more. Five-minute acts. Sign-up with Lawn Griffiths, tempelawn@msn.com or call (480) 894-1557. All invited to donate fun items from around the house for giveaway with free ticket drawings. Bring items to the office or by Sunday morning of the event.

RISE SHINE BREAD: We have delivered 4,874 mini-loaves and 3,925 full-sized loaves of bread to those in need. Thanks to the UPC bakers and please invite your friends to become a baker. Please contact Andrea White at info@riseshinebread.org or (480) 580-3021. Here is a link to a video you can view! <https://youtu.be/Go5llLjTuw>.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP PAD (www.upctempe.org/fellowship, or scan the QR code):

If you are attending worship either on Zoom or YouTube, remember to complete the online Fellowship Pad and include your prayer requests. Also, if you have new contact info (phone, email, etc.), include that info as well and check the "New contact info" box.



If your contact info has not changed, you do not need to include your address or phone number.

UPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Find Zoom links and calendar updates at
www.upctempe.org/events.*

*Subscribe to the Weekly Update for Zoom links:
www.upctempe.org/email*

Sun., Sep 24

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Consecration Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
10:45 am Consecration Sunday Potluck Luncheon (K, FH)
6:00 pm Nominating Committee (CR)

Mon., Sep 25

6:30 pm PW Kayenta Circle (MR)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue., Sep 26

7:00 pm Stated Session (S, Z)

Wed., Sep 27

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (Z)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (K, FH)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (Z)

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thu., Sep 28
 8:00 am TOPS (MR, Rm 7)
 1:00 pm PW Online Bible Study (Z)

Fri., Sep 29
 3:00 pm I-HELP –Meal: Victoria Atkins (FH, K)
 8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat., Sep 30
 7:00 am I-HELP guests depart

Sun., Oct 1
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
PC (USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering
World Communion Sunday
 9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
 11:00 am Children’s Bible Time (Rm 3)
 11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Youth Room)
 11:00 am Adult Christian Education (S)

Location/Room References:
 (CH)-Choir Room (CR)-Conference Room/Office (COR/Rm7)-Community Room
 (FH)-Fellowship Hall (MG) Memorial Garden (HSR)-High School Room
 (MSR)-Middle School Room (K)-Fellowship Hall Kitchen
 (L)-Lounge (MR)-Meeting Room (PO)-Pastor’s Office
 (Rm#)-Room Number Indicated (S)-Sanctuary
 (Z)-On Zoom (See Weekly Update or UPC Calendar for links)



Open and Affirming to All, Glorifying God, Growing in Love

139 E. Alameda Dr. • Tempe, AZ 85282 • 480.966.6267

www.upctempe.org • e-mail: upc@upctempe.org

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ministers	All Members
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Ledermann
Clerk of Session	Brigitta Kuiper
Director of Music & Christian Education	Ted Gibson
Organist	Jon Sywassink
Administrative Assistant	Lori Saager
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Andrea White
Attendance Secretaries	Sharlan Pierce, Jeanette Miller
Custodian	Carrie Miter

Pastor’s Office Hours:

Available by appointment Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Contact the church office or the pastor to schedule,

or go to www.upctempe.org/pastorschedule.