



“To everything
(turn turn turn)

There is a season
(turn turn turn)

And a time for every
purpose under
heaven”

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Nancy Franz

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

To ponder as we gather: “I LOVE changes... I wish everything would change every week!” said no-one, ever. Along with death and taxes, change seems to be one of life's givens; how do you react to it? Some change comes upon us without our choosing, and other changes are more optional. What is UPC's attitude toward change?

Our Faith Family Gathers for Worship

WELCOME

Interim Pastor Len Silvester

- Let us know that you are here by **scanning** the QR code to the right or by going to www.upctempe.org/fellowship, and completing the form.
- OR you may **tear out the pew pad sheet** and leave it on the pew.
- If you are on any social media, please **check in at UPC** to let others know that you are here—and that they would be welcome.
- Please make sure your devices are muted as we move into worship.



The love of God 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

"I Will Arise"
SOUTHERN HARMONY, ARR. MARK HAYES

Jon Sywassink,
Pianist

We use this time to center our spirits, bring our attention to God's grace-filled presence,, 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 the whole created order. The candles on the communion table represent the light of community. The single candle near the pulpit is the paschal candle, symbol of the light of Christ that shines on and which the darkness cannot overcome.

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹** (from Psalm 65)

God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you...

⌘ ...as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Because your steadfast love is better than life itself,

⌘ ...my lips will praise you.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast.

⌘ And my mouth praises you with joyful song!

***HYMN**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#39

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

⌘ Gracious God, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging that we have fallen short of your ways, and that we desire to grow and change. We have spoken words that caused harm. Our actions and attitudes have not always reflected your love. We have sometimes tried to pour your new wine into tired old wineskins. Help us to embrace the changes you are setting before us, to let go of the things that hold us back, and to turn toward your future with purpose and joy. We pray this in Jesus' name...

Moment for silent reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Here is the Good News: In Christ, we are new creations... restored and set free to serve boldly and joyfully.

⌘ Thanks be to God! Amen!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
⌘ **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

“In the Garden”
CARL NYGARD

Chancel Choir

In the garden, under clouds of gloom, in the garden, not a flower bloomed, not a whisper, not a sound, all was quiet, not a friend could be found in the garden, in the evening, in despair.

In the garden, in a quiet place, in the garden, no one saw the face of the master, as He prayed, to the Father and he wept as He stayed in the garden, in His moment of despair.

O take this cup of grief, this cup of suffering, O Father hear my prayer and let it pass. O take this cup of grief, this cup of suffering O Father, hear my prayer, and let it pass.

In the garden, in the sleep of night, in the garden, stars refused the light, once triumphant at his birth, now in hiding, letting darkness recur through the garden in the evening of despair.

O take this cup of grief, this cup of suffering O Father, hear my prayer, and let it pass. In the garden, in the evening air, words were spoken in a final prayer “Let this cup pass from the Son; yet not my will, but the Father’s be done.”

Listening for God’s Word

MOMENT FOR THE CHILDREN

Helen Griffin

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.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING¹

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-9

OT pg. 685
NT pg. 76

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

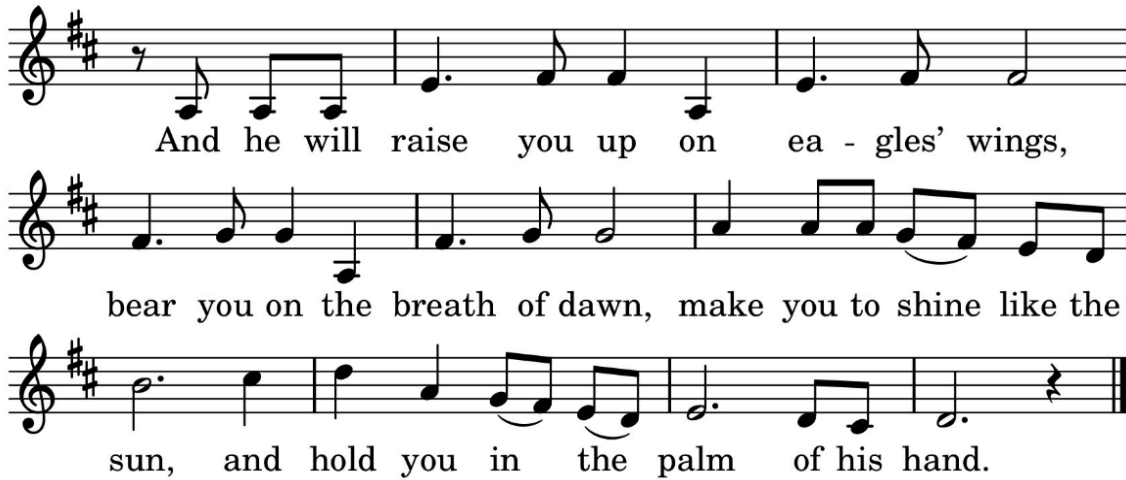
“Turn, Turn, Turn: Whose Idea Was THIS?”

Responding to God’s Word

***RESPONSE**

“On Eagle's Wings”

#43



And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,
 bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
 sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

Presentation

***Affirmation of Faith**

A New Creed

∴We are not alone. We live in God’s world.

**We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come to us in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.
 We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church
 to celebrate God’s presence,
 to live with respect for all Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

Affirmations by the New Members:

Do you affirm the faith that we have just proclaimed?

⌘ I do.

Do affirm your desire to turn toward God in all things as the Spirit enables you?

⌘ I do.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
sharing in its worship, work and witness?

⌘ I will, with God's help.

Will you support this community through your prayers,
gifts, study and service?

⌘ I will, with God's help.

Welcome

**⌘ With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the life and witness of UPC!
Your offered gifts, blended with ours, will truly matter!**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

"Montlure Happenings"

Laura Knorr

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, hallowed 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

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 OFFERING

Offerings may be given through the offering plate as it is passed, mailed to
or dropped off at the church office, or given through our website
at www.upctempe.org/donate (scan QR code).



OFFERTORY

"Let All Things Now Living"
ARR. LLOYD LARSON

Jon Sywassink,
Organist

***DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#606U

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures
 here be - low; praise God for all that love has done. Cre -
 a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. A - men.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sent Out to Serve in Jesus' Name

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

***HYMN**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

#315

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
ARR. DAN MILLER

Jon Sywassink,
Organist

*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

Head Usher
Ushers
Worship Techs

Larry Seubert
Larry Seubert, Cheri Hardy, Jeanette Miller
Jim Niemann, Sada Reed/Chris Trella

Trustee on Duty
Deacon of the Month
Sanctuary Readiness

Carol Rickel
Sue Coleman
Larry Seubert

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

A WHITE ROSE will be placed on the communion table in loving memory of Bob Knox.

DEACON HONORARY PLANT: *Given by Donna & Gene DeLutio in honor of family*

MEMORIAL BOOK: *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Carolyn Norrid, a memorial perpetuated in Organ Fund by Alma Norrid, December 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; Barbara Smith; Bev and Norm Phillips and their son Jim Phillips; Rob, Chet Henry's brother; Beckie Burke; Diane Watkins, Gary Anderson, Dana Prestly and Catherine May

Homebound: Joanna Fancher, Helen Alderson

Birthdays this coming week: Margaret Branson, Jey Young

*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

Deacons: Nancy Martin, Jeanette Miller, Jim Niemann, Holly Silcox

Trustees: Carol Rickel, Cheri Hardy, Phil Witherspoon

Presbytery: Trinity, Prescott, their pastor: John C. Morris

Christian Education

CHILDREN'S BIBLE TIME (Sundays, 10:00 am - 10:45 am, Rm 2): All children in grades K-5 are welcome for Bible stories, discussions, music, and fun activities. (On communion Sundays and some holidays there is no Bible Time so that our children can join in worship.)

YOUTH GROUP (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Rm 9): The youth will meet with Pastor Len this morning to plan for our part in Justice Sunday next week! All Youth are invited for games and snacks and faith-building! For more information you may contact Ted Gibson tedgibson@upctempe.org.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sanctuary): Join us for stimulating discussion and faith-deepening learning.

- **Mar 9 - 23** - *After Jesus, Before Christianity* led by Rev. Ken Moe. The class will explore the diverse, independent, and sometimes free-spirited Jesus movement during the two centuries between the crucifixion and the evolution of a creed-based institutional Christian Church.
- **Mar 30, Apr 6 - 13** - *The Future of Religion* with Rev. Al Gephart. Religion as we have known it, particularly the Christianity most of us are familiar with, is in the midst of turmoil and transition. A new vision is trying to be born. This class will explore the meaning of religion, what of the tradition is being challenged, and what appears to be emerging.

LECTIO DIVINA BIBLE STUDY (Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Zoom): We read, reflect on, and study the scripture readings for each upcoming Sunday in the Revised Common Lectionary. A list is available for download: List Form (www.upctempe.org/rcl).

...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.*

CONTACTING PASTOR LEN: He is eager to connect with you. You may email him at pastorlen@upctempe.org or text/leave a message at (480) 648-5475.

NEW: THE QUESTION BOX IS OPEN: Pastor Len invites your questions about faith, life, the future of UPC... anything on your mind. He will respond during the sermon time on May 4. Submit questions to pastorlen@upctempe.org, drop them in the offering plate, or call the church office.

Next Sunday is **JUSTICE SUNDAY** (5th Sunday in a month) and will be focused on food insecurity. In the sermon time, our youth will offer their witness from this year's Urban Mission Trip. This would be a great Sunday to invite friends!

XERISCAPE PHASE TWO: A map showing the elements of Phase Two for our xeriscape project is on the east wall of the sanctuary. Take a look! The plants, pavers, ramada, trellises, and walkways are pretty well set. We do need to make a decision about what kind of seating to have in the ramada. Get your thoughts on seating to Helen Griffin so we can finalize the plan. Thanks!

RISE AND SHINE BREAD: We have delivered 10,294 mini-loaves and 5,720 full-sized loaves of bread to those in need. Thanks to the UPC bakers and please invite your friends to become a baker. The project has about 45 bakers, including 15 who regularly bake. 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, please 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., Mar 23

9:30 am	Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
10:00 am	Children's Bible Time
10:30 am	'UPC Cafe' fellowship time on the patio
11:00 am	Adult Christian Education (S)
11:00 am	Youth Fellowship meets with Pastor Len (Rm 9)
12:00 pm	Endowment Distribution Task Force (CR)

Mon., Mar 24

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

Tue., Mar 25

1:00 pm	PW Online Bible Study (Z)
4:00 pm	Violin Lessons (Rm 2)
5:30 pm	CIO Committee (Z)
7:00 pm	Stated Session (S, Z)

Wed., Mar 26

9:00 am	Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)
3:45 pm	Worship Planning Meeting (Z)
5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thu., Mar 27

8:00 am	TOPS (MR, Rm 7)
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Fri., Mar 28

3:00 pm	I-HELP -Meal: St Augustine (FH, K)
8:30 pm	A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat., Mar 29

7:00 am	I-HELP guests depart
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Sun., Mar 30 – Justice Sunday: Food Insecurity

7:00 am I-HELP Overnight (FH)
9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
10:00 am Children's Bible Time
10:30 am 'UPC Cafe' fellowship time on the patio
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (S)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)

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
Interim Pastor	The Reverend Len Silvester
Clerk of Session	Jim Hershauer
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