



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

April 13, 2025

Palm/Passion of Jesus Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Sada Reed

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

**To ponder as we gather:** The drama of the 'passion' of Jesus—including his arrest, trial, and execution—is as gripping today as it was then. With which person in these accounts (e.g., Peter, the widow, Herod, Pilate, Judas, etc.) do you most see yourself? UPC?

### 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](http://www.upctempe.org/fellowship), and completing the form—with contact information **only if it is new or changed**.
- 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 **mute your devices** 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

#### About today's service

## Centering Time and Entrance of the Light

*"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"*

BY JENNETTE THRELFALL

Ted Gibson,  
*Pianist*

*We use this time to center our spirits on God's grace-filled presence and remember that we are connected to all things through the Body of Christ.*

*The candles on the communion table represent the light of community. The candle near the pulpit is the Christ candle, symbolic of the eternal light of Christ.*

### Passion Story – Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

Narr: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them:

Jesus: Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."

Narr: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them:

**#1: What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?**

Narr: They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Those who went on ahead and those who followed were shouting:

**All: (waving arms or palms) "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

Narr: Then he entered Jerusalem and went to the temple, looking around at everything. Since it was late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.  
**Silence**

**\*Hymn**

*"All Glory, Laud and Honor"*

#196

### Prayer of Confession

**⌘ With eager hearts and lips, Holy One, we welcome Jesus, until he refuses the power we offer him, choosing to become our servant. In ways intentional and unintended, our lips have said 'Hosanna!'**

**but our actions have turned us away from Jesus' way of sacrifice.  
Our pride prevents us from following Jesus fully. Turn us more fully  
toward the Way of the one who came in your name..**

*Moment for silent reflection and confession.*

## **Assurance of Grace**

**‡ Thanks be to God! Amen!**

### **\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**‡ And also with you.**

## **Listening for God's Word**

### **Anthem**

*"On the Road to Jerusalem"*

Chancel Choir

JOSEPH MARTIN

On the road to Jerusalem slowly rides King Jesus.  
People come to call His name, Son of David, heal us.  
Down the ancient streets He rides, donkey is His stallion.  
No golden coach, no chariot bright brings Him to His Kingdom.  
Where is His chariot? Where is His robe of silk? Where is His scepter?  
Where is His crown? Where are the trumpets?  
How will He rule the land if He comes as a Prince of Peace and humble as a lamb?  
On the road to Jerusalem rides the Man of Sorrows. "Save us King," the people cry.  
What will they cry tomorrow?

### **Moment with Our Children**

Sada Reed

*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.*

### **Passion Story: Monday**

Mark 11:15-19

Narr: The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Again, he entered the temple. He began to drive out those who were selling and buying there. He threw over the tables of the moneychangers and those who sold doves for sacrifices. He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. Meanwhile, he was teaching, saying:

Jesus: Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”? But you have made it a den of thieves!

Narr: And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to be rid of him; for they were afraid because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. Silence

**Sermon**

“Turn, Turn, Turn: Which Parade?”


Pastor Len

## Responding to God’s Word

[seated] **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.

**Passion Story: Monday**

Mark 11–selected verses

Narr: In the morning, Jesus said:

Jesus: Have faith in God. Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins.

Narr: Once again, they went to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said:

**#2: By what authority are you doing these things?**

Jesus: I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what

authority I do these things: Now, did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.

Narr: They began arguing with one another.

**#1: If we say, “from heaven,” he will say, “Why then didn’t you believe him?”**

**#2: But surely, we cannot say “of human origin”!**

Narr: They were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So, this is how they answered Jesus:

**All: Uh...we do not know!**

Jesus: Then neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.  
Silence

## **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.**

### **Passion Story: Wednesday Morning** Mark 12:41-44

Narr: He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd donating to the treasury. Many people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, together worth a penny. Then he called his disciples:

Jesus: Truly I tell, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.

## **Invitation to Generosity**

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](http://www.upctempe.org/donate) (scan QR code).

**Offertory**

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*  
ARR. LARRY VISSER

Jon Sywassink,  
*Organist*

**Doxology**

*"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

#606U

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures  
here below; praise God for all that love has done. Cre -  
a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. A - men.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Invitation to Community**

UPC is a community of Christian faith seeking to be open and affirming of all God's children, regardless of who you love, where you come from, how you got here, or what language you speak. All are welcome, as it is Christ who invites us and calls us into this community.

**Minute for Mission**

*"Project Connect"*

Faye & Larry Gardner

**Sent Out to Follow Jesus**

**\*Hymn**

*"Ah, Holy Jesus"*  
(vs. 1, 2 & 5)

#218

**Passion Story: Wednesday Afternoon** Mark 12 (selected verses)

Narr: Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him:

**#2: Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and defer to no one; you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the true way of God. So...is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?**

Jesus: Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a coin and let me see it. Whose head is on the coin, and whose title? Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's—and to God the things that are God's.

Narr: And they were utterly amazed at him. One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, they asked him;

**#1: Which commandment is the most important of all?**

Jesus: The first is, "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.

**#2: You are right, Teacher!**

Jesus: And you are not far from the kingdom of God.

Narr: After that no one dared to ask him any more questions. The Pharisees withdrew from him and waited for a more opportune time to carry out their plans. *Silence*

## **Tolling of the Bell**

The bell will toll 30 times, symbolic of the years of Jesus' earthly life. You are invited to remain seated for meditation – and to depart when you are ready. The drama resumes at Mission del Sol Church on Thursday at 7 p.m.

You are also invited to brief prayer services each weekday morning this week at 7 a.m. in our Memorial Garden.

***When our worship is over, our service resumes.  
Remember that you are the light of the world!***

Sign up for our Weekly Update email at  
[www.upctempe.org/email](http://www.upctempe.org/email).

## Today's Worship Leaders

Head Usher	Sue Schnebel
Ushers	Sue Schnebel, Marge Cawley
Worship Techs	Geoff Beams/Chris Trella, Bianca Osorio
Trustee on Duty	Judy Earl
Deacon of the Month	Jeanette Miller
Sanctuary Readiness	Larry Seubert

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## Remember in Prayer

**Deacon Honorary Plant:** *None given this day*

**Memorial Book:** *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Carolyn Norrid, a memorial perpetuated in Organ Fund by Virginia & Clay Hall, Trent, Brig, Kami & Carly, December 1986.*

**The World:** Prayers for justice and peace around the world, especially in places of war and disasters – natural and human-caused.

**Our Elected Leaders:** The President of the United States, members of the U.S. Congress, governors, county officials, mayors, and city council members, that they may all work toward justice and 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.

**Homebound:** Joanna Fancher, Helen Alderson

**Birthdays this coming week:** Laura Green, Bonny Henry, Chuck Riden, Tom Sevlie

*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:** Pinnacle, Scottsdale; their pastor: Rev. Erik Khoobyarian

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## Christian Education

**Children's Bible Time** (Sundays, 10-10:45am, Room 2): Grades K-5 enjoy Bible stories, discussions, music, and fun activities on non-communion Sundays.

**Youth Group** (Sundays, 11am - Noon, Room 9): Games, refreshments, and faith-building. Need info? Contact Ted Gibson [tedgibson@upctempe.org](mailto:tedgibson@upctempe.org).



**A.C.E.--Adult Christian Education** (Sundays, 1 am - Noon, in the Sanctuary):

Stimulating discussion and faith-deepening learning.

- **Today** - *The Future of Religion* with UPC Pastor Emeritus Al Gephart.  
The Christianity we are familiar with is in turmoil and transition. A new vision is trying to be born. This class will explore the meaning of religion, what tradition is being challenged, and what appears to be emerging.
- **April 20** - No class - Easter Sunday
- **April 27** - Gifts of Women Sunday – Pastor Len will present a provocative ‘teaser’ for his Fall series... *What Paul REALLY Said About Women*.

**Lectio Divina Bible Study (Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Zoom):** Read, reflect on, and study the scripture readings for each upcoming Sunday. A list is available for download: List Form ([www.upctempe.org/rcl](http://www.upctempe.org/rcl)).

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## What’s Going On Here?

*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](mailto:upc@upctempe.org).*

**Contacting Pastor Len:** He is eager to connect with you. You may email him at [pastorlen@upctempe.org](mailto:pastorlen@upctempe.org) or text/leave a message at (480) 648-5475.

**Thank you** to the volunteers who have made such a difference this week and weekend to unhoused folks in the Family Promise and I-Help programs. You touched vulnerable lives with genuine hope through extravagant hospitality.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** is received today ... or anytime in the next couple of weeks. You may use the envelope provided, write a check noting ‘OGHS’, give through the website, or drop your gift off at the office. This is the 76th year of this ecumenical offering that brings help to devastated communities around the world.

TONIGHT: **The Comm[UNITY] concert** will be at 7 p.m. at the LDS church across College Avenue. The music will include our bell choir, a vocal solo by Ted Gibson, and a prayer by Pastor Len. Someone you know would love to attend with you!

**Easter Lilies:** After worship you may order your lily or plant to honor or remember loved ones. The donation is \$15. They will highlight our worship next Sunday (April 20). You may also use the online giving button at [www.upctempe.org](http://www.upctempe.org), contact Donna DeLutio, leave a check at the church office payable to UPC with “Easter Lily” written in the memo line. Thank you, and we wish you a blessed Easter.

### Holy Week Schedule

**Each weekday morning, 7:00 a.m.:** A brief prayer service is held in the Memorial Garden. Invite a neighbor or friend to join you. Refreshments follow.

**Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.:** A communion *tenebrae* service hosted by Mission del Sol church including UPC and Gilbert Presbyterian Church.

LOCATION: 1565 E. Warner Rd., Tempe

**Easter Sunday, April 20th, 9:30 a.m.:** Festival of the Resurrection service with communion. Pastor Len is preaching: "Backs to the Tombs."

Our annual **Gifts of Women Sunday** will be April 27th! A team of our Presbyterian Women has designed and will present the service. The sermon will be by the Rev. Dr. Vonna Thomas. You won't want to miss this experience!

**A New Version of 'Stump the Pastor':** 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](mailto:pastorlen@upctempe.org), drop them in the offering plate, or call the church office.

**'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 45 bakers, including 15 regulars. Invite your friends to bake: Contact Andrea White at [info@riseshinebread.org](mailto:info@riseshinebread.org) or (480) 580-3021. Questions? Here is a video link: <https://youtu.be/Go5llLjTuw>.

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## UPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Note: 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.*

*Find Zoom links and calendar updates at [www.upctempe.org/events](http://www.upctempe.org/events).*

*Subscribe to the Weekly Update for Zoom links: [www.upctempe.org/email](http://www.upctempe.org/email)*

### **Sun., Apr 13**

*Palm Sunday*

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rms 2-3) departs*

9:30 am           Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)  
10:00 am        Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)  
10:30 am        'UPC Cafe' fellowship time on the patio  
11:00 am        Adult Christian Education (S)  
11:00 am        Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)

### **Mon., Apr 14**

7:00 am           Holy Week Prayer Service (Memorial Garden)  
8:00 pm           Stewardship Committee (Z)  
8:30 pm           AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### **Tue., Apr 15**

7:00 am           Holy Week Prayer Service (Memorial Garden)  
4:00 pm           Violin Lessons (Rm 2)

6:30 pm CIO Committee (Z)  
7:00 pm Board of Trustees (Z)

**Wed., Apr 16**

7:00 am Holy Week Prayer Service (Memorial Garden)  
9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)  
12:30 pm Chinle Circle (MR)  
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 (Mission del Sol)

**Thu., Apr 17**

7:00 am Holy Week Prayer Service (Memorial Garden)  
8:00 am TOPS (MR, Rm 7)  
9:30 am Nominating Committee (CR)  
11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (Z)  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday @ Mission del Sol, 1565 E Warner Rd, Tempe AZ

**Fri., Apr 18**

7:00 am Holy Week Prayer Service (Memorial Garden)  
3:00 pm I-HELP –Meal: UPC (FH, K)  
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

**Sat., Apr 19**

7:00 am I-HELP guests depart

**Sun., Apr 20**

*Easter Sunday*

9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)  
10:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)  
10:30 am 'UPC Cafe' fellowship time on the patio

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***

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

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

Ministers  
Interim Pastor  
Clerk of Session  
Director of Music & Christian Education  
Organist  
Administrative Assistant  
Treasurer/Bookkeeper  
Attendance Secretaries  
Custodian

All Members  
The Reverend Len Silvester  
Jim Hershauer  
Ted Gibson  
Jon Sywassink  
Lori Saager  
Andrea White  
Sharlan Pierce, Jeanette Miller  
Carrie Miter