



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

April 27, 2025

Gifts of Women Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Liturgists: Presbytery Women

*Welcome to UPC! 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

Rev. Dr. Vonna Thomas

- 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 hope, peace, joy and love of 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

We gratefully acknowledge that the lands in which we live, work and worship are the original lands of the Hohokam people and their descendants the Akimel O'odham and the Thono O'odham people, as well as the Pee Posh (Maricopa). We further recognize that this land is central to their customs, beliefs, and spirituality. We confirm that we support and partner with them to protect and enhance tribal sovereignty and to be stewards of this land.

Despite the many challenges facing Native people as the result of colonization, Presbyterian Women at UPC recognize the resilience that Native women have demonstrated. For millennia they have exemplified hope for the future.

## Introduction to the Day

### Centering Time and Lighting of the Candles

*"Love is Little"*

TRADITIONAL SHAKER HYMN, ARR. TED GIBSON

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.*

### Call to Worship

As we greet the dawn again this morning, we remember the story of God's love for this world;

**⌘ A love that with breath created the world good.**

We give thanks for Light and Dark, Land, Sky and Sea, Stars and Moon, Waters on the Earth and Waters in the Sky;

**⌘ A Love that formed creatures from a divine imagination and fashioned people with hands in the clay. And named it all good.**

We offer praise to the one who provided divine assurance, promised descendants, and delivered the people from enslavement;

**⌘ A love that led and taught as the people wandered, as they received commandments, as they built kingdoms.**

We give thanks for those who heard and shared God's word and God's love;

**⌘ A love that came to Earth to dwell among the people.**

A savior who taught and cared, died and rose again.

**⌘ A love that surrounds us now and that will never let us go.**

We praise God together, adding our voices to a chorus of love that God began and continues to lead, from generation to generation.

**⌘ We experience God's loving spirit in each smile we see. May we always be prepared for glimpses into God's glory, God's loving hospitality.**

### Passing the Peace

Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you.

**⌘ And also with you**

### \*Hymn

*"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place"*

#408

## Prayer of Confession/Lament

God of Grace and Love,

For the ways we have not followed your lessons of love and compassion,

‡ **We ask for forgiveness.**

For the times we have put our desires before your vision for the world,

‡ **We ask forgiveness.**

For the times we have spoken negatively into or about your creation,

‡ **We ask forgiveness.**

For the moments we stayed silent when the world needed our faithful protest,

‡ **We ask forgiveness.**

‡ **Loving God, we ask that you forgive our sins and create in us hearts that are full of your love and lives that are led by your mercy and compassion.**

**Today and every day.**

**Amen**

*Moment for silent reflection and confession.*

## Assurance of Grace

**Response to Grace**    *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”*

#582

## Listening for God’s Word

### Anthem

*“Love is Little” Traditional Shaker Hymn*

Chancel Choir

ARR. RON BARNETT

Liturgical Dance by Rev. Shelly Moe and Faye Gardner

Love is Little, love is low\*, love will make our spirit grow – grow in peace, grow in light,  
love will do the thing that’s right.

Love is Little, love is low, love will make our spirit grow – grow in peace, grow in light,  
love will do the thing that’s right.

Love is Little, love is low, love will make our spirit grow – grow in peace, grow in light,  
love will do the thing that’s right.

*\* From a Shaker hymn, the term love is “low” is used to convey the Shaker emphasis on simplicity and humility in all aspects of life, including love, and the importance of service to others and devotion to God, suggesting that love is best expressed through acts of kindness and compassion.*

## Moment for the Children

Suzanne Niemann

*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 Understanding**

### **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 136 as Paraphrased from Rejoice, Beloved Woman! by Barbara J. Monda

It is good to give thanks to Shaddai. Her love is forever.  
She alone made the world. Her power is forever.  
She is the architect of the heavens, her creation is forever.  
She is the contractor of the land, her steadfastness is forever.  
She is the seamstress of the night, her stars and moon are forever.  
She is the fortress of her people, her strength is forever.  
She is the terror of the wicked, her justice is forever.  
She is the hero to the brave, her loyalty is forever.  
She is the mother to the lost, her sweetness is forever.  
Her bosom comforts and feeds all, her love is forever.

### **Matthew 5:16 Paraphrased**

In the same way, let light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise God who is in heaven.

### **1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV**

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

Word of Wisdom, Word of Grace.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

“Courageously Doing Everything in Love”

Rev. Dr. Vonna Thomas

## **Responding to God's Word**

## Response

### "God be the Love to Search and Keep Me" (v. 1, 5)

#543

The musical score is written in 8/8 time and consists of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Chords above are C, Dm7, G, C, Dm7. The second staff has notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Chords above are D7, G, Am, F, G, Am. The third staff has notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Chords above are F, C, G, Am, F, C, G, C. The lyrics are: 1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness- 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning, 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me: es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness: strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et: light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways: hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

## Prayers of the People

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

O Holy God, we bless you because you have promised to help and save your people.

God in your mercy,

**⌘ Hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are in need. Help everyone to find healthy food, medical care, and good places to live. God in your mercy,

**⌘ Hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are in trouble. Deliver them from anything evil and keep them safe from every danger. God in your mercy,

**⌘ Hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are sad or lonely. Support them with your compassion and surround them with community. God in your mercy,

**⌘ Hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are sick or suffering. Pour out your healing power upon them to strengthen them in their weakness. God in your mercy,

**⌘ Hear our prayer.**

O Holy God, let your help and healing shine on us like the sunrise. Give light to those who wait in darkness and guide us on your path to peace.

**‡ Give us light to guide us,  
Courage to support us,  
Love to unite us,  
Now and forever more.**

### **Prayer of Jesus** (Modern)

**‡ Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer, Life Giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **Minute for Mission**

“Birthday Offering”

Suzanne Niemann

### **Invitation to the Offering**

Our offerings are one of many ways through which we can spread the witness of Divine Love and Grace.

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**

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*  
ARR. DIANE BISH

Jon Sywassink,  
*Organist*

### **Doxology**

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

#606U

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

In love, O God, you wildly imagined.  
 In love, O God, you generously created.  
 In love, O Christ, you restored and redeemed.  
 In love, O Spirit, you guide the church with your breath and wisdom.  
 In love, we, your creation, give joyfully.  
 In love, we, your children, join with the host of saints to share our blessings with  
 God's world.  
 In love, we, your beloved, celebrate the work being done and joyfully add our offerings.  
 Amen.

**Sent Out in Jesus' Name**

**Invitation to Community**

**Announcements**

**Hymn** "We Invite All to Join the Circle Wide" #111  
*(Inclusive Hymns for Liberating Christians)*  
*(see insert)*

**Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Jon Sywassink,  
 ARR. DIANE BISH Organist

***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	Larry Seubert
Ushers	Larry Seubert, Jeanette Miller
Worship Techs	Jim Niemann, Sada Reed
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:** *Given today by Katie Ranes in memory of her grandmother, Kathryn.*

**Memorial Book:** *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Carolyn Norrid, a memorial perpetuated in Organ Fund by William & Rose Norrid, 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.

**Ongoing 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:** Kay Hosek-Knauss, G.G. Saravia

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

**Elders:** Dan Maloney, Jo Lewis, Jean Witherspoon

**Deacons:** Katie Casanova, Donna DeLutio, Bonny Henry, Clarissa Knorr

**Trustees:** Judy Earl, Gene DeLutio, Jan Felton

**Presbytery:** Sun City (Arizona Korean), Sun City; their pastor: Rev. Yongho Cho

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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, 11 am - Noon, in the Sanctuary):

Stimulating discussion and faith-deepening learning.

- **TODAY** - *What Paul REALLY Said About Women*. (You thought we knew, right?) Pastor Len will present a provocative 'teaser' for his Fall series.
- **May 4 - 25** - *Theology in Popular Songs* by Rev. Ken Moe. Ken will examine popular music from the mid-70s to the mid-80s, identifying religious themes and theological affirmations in secular music.

**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.

**Gifts of Women Sunday** is an annual post-Easter tradition at UPC. Thank you to our Presbyterian Women for crafting and presenting this worship service.

**A Deadline for Your Questions:** Pastor Len will respond to our questions during sermon time NEXT SUNDAY. Submit questions **by Wednesday this week** to [pastorlen@upctempe.org](mailto:pastorlen@upctempe.org), drop them in the offering plate, or call the church office.

**Project Connect – April 29th:** Once again our campus will be filled with representatives of agencies offering services and resources to the community, and especially to the unhoused. Volunteers are needed to assist that day ... see [Faye Gardner](#) to sign up.

**No Cooling Center Here this Summer:** The City of Tempe has determined that UPC will not host a cooling center for the unhoused this year. For more information on this surprising decision, see Catherine May.

**'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/Go5llLlTuw>.

# UPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

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 27

### *Gifts of Women 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
11:00 am	Adult Christian Education (S)
11:00 am	Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)

## Mon., Apr 28

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

## Tue., Apr 29

7:00 am	Project Connect (Campus)
4:00 pm	Violin Lessons (Rm 2)

## Wed., Apr 30

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 (Mission del Sol)

## Thu., May 1

### *Tempe Day of Prayer*

8:00 am	TOPS (MR, Rm 7)
7:00 pm	CE Committee (Z)

## Fri., May 2

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

## Sat., May 3

7:00 am	I-HELP guests depart
7:15 am	Baseball Card Show (FH)

## Sun., May 4

9:30 am	Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
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***

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**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