



**LEADER**

## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

**May 4, 2025**

**3rd Sunday of Easter  
Earth Day Celebration**

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Vicki Jacobs

*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:** What would you say is the opposite of faith? You might answer 'doubt'... hence the negative attitude toward 'doubting Thomas'. Yet Jesus seemed to encourage searching, questioning, different perspectives. Our welcome paragraph says 'this is a place of inquiry'? Is it OK to have more questions than answers?

### **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**

## Centering Time and Entrance of the Light

*"Morning Has Broken"*  
ARR. BEVERLY A. HOWARD

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 (from Psalm 30)

Praise God, all you faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name!

⌘ **Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes with the morning.**

You have turned mourning into dancing;

⌘ **You have clothed me with joy!**

### \*Hymn

*"Morning Has Broken"*

#664

### Prayer Of Confession<sup>1</sup>

⌘ **Though we proclaim resurrection power,  
at times we resist transformation.**

**We do not always accept as your loved children  
those who are very different from us.**

**We resist those who speak for you  
but disrupt our routines and challenge our assumptions.**

**We lose faith in your future to which Christ is drawing us.  
Grant us fresh courage and power in our witness, we pray.**

*Moment for silent reflection and confession.*

### Assurance Of Grace

In divine grace, we have been born anew in a living hope through the power of resurrection. We are forgiven, set free, and offered true life in Christ ... always. Alleluia!

⌘ **We are forgiven. All things are made new.  
Christ is with us always: Alleluia!**

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

⌘ **And also with you.**

**\*Response**

*"Glory to God"*

#582

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me,  
 2 World with-out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with-out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir-it, whose love has set me free. As it  
 World with-out end, with-out end. A - men.

was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be. A - men.

**Listening for God’s Word**

**Moment with Our Children**

Chris Casanova

**Anthem**

*"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"*  
CHRIS TOMLIN ARR. RANEY

Chancel Choir

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, now I see, 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; 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 Your mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures, God will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me, and like a flood Your 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 Your mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace, unending love, amazing grace.

## Prayer For Understanding

### Scripture Reading

John 21:19-31

NT pg. 116

The Holy Spirit reveals the Word of God to the people of God!

⌘ **Thanks be to God!**

### Sermon

“From the Question Box”

Pastor Len

### [SEATED] Response

“Amen”

#600



## Responding with Mission, Generosity and Sacrament

### Invitation to Community & Communion

UPC is an open and affirming community of Christian faith welcoming all of God’s children, regardless of who you love, where you come from, how you got here, or what language you speak. If you are seeking a church home, consider making this one it! All are welcome to partake of communion.

### Moment for Mission

“Earth Day”

Linda Risseeuw

### 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

“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

Jon Sywassink,

ARR. MICHAEL BURKHARDT

Organist

## The Lord’s Supper

*If you are joining us online, you are invited and encouraged to have some bread or something to eat and a drink as we celebrate the Eucharist.*

### Invitation To Prayer

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

God is with you!

⌘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

⌘ **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

⌘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God...

...with all of creation, with people of every time and place, we join  
the everlasting chorus of praise:

**Sanctus**

*"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

#595

We come to this Table now, O Creator, mindful of ...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of your Holy Spirit, we pray a version  
of the prayer that Jesus taught, saying:

**Prayer Of Jesus** (Modern litany)

Our Creator in heaven;

⌘ **You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans.**

May your name always be holy

⌘ **By the care we take of your creation.**

May your kin-dom come

⌘ **So that all that you see is once again good.**

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven...

⌘ **By us in whatever we say and do.**

Give us this day our daily bread...

⌘ **That all may have what is needed for a sustainable life.**

Forgive us our debts:

⌘ **Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species  
and for future generations.**

As we forgive our debtors...

⌘ **Showing reconciliation, justice and peace.**

Lead us not into temptation,

⌘ **Especially the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation.**

And deliver us from evil...

⌘ **Especially the evil of desecrating your gift of creation.**

For yours is the kin-dom...

⌘ **Yours, O God, not ours...**

The power and the glory...

⌘ **In the cross and resurrection of Jesus...**

For ever and ever!

⌘ **In life and in death we belong to you! Amen.**

## Words of Institution

... and after giving thanks to God,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

**∴ Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Whenever you do this, remember me.**

In the same way, when the meal was finished, he poured the wine,  
and gave them the cup, saying:

**∴ This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you do this, remember me.**

## \*Giving of the Bread and Cup

*You may come forward when invited by an usher, exiting from the left end of your row..  
Receive the piece of bread from the server or from the plate of **gluten-free bread**  
in front of **the pulpit**.*

*You may dip your bread into the chalice; or you may take an individual cup,  
placing your used communion cup in the basket provided.*

*If you wish to remain seated, the communion elements will be brought to you.*

*If you have brought your own elements or are celebrating communion at home,  
you may partake when you are ready.*

**\*Communion Hymn**            *“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”*            #498

## Prayer After Communion

### Sent Out to Follow Jesus

**\*Closing Hymn**            *“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*            #250

## \*Charge And Blessing

**\*Postlude**            *“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”*            Chancel Choir  
ARR. JOEL RANEY

***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

<b>Head Usher</b>	Tom Sevlie
<b>Ushers</b>	Wendy Sevlie, Chet Henry, Patty Griffiths
<b>Worship Techs</b>	Geoff Beams, Chris Trella
<b>Trustee on Duty</b>	Gene DeLutio
<b>Deacon of the Month</b>	Diane Hillyard
<b>Sanctuary Readiness</b>	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 Barbara & Roger Kronberg, 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 and Senate, governors, county officials, mayors, and city council members, that they may all work toward 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:** Katie Ranes, Cathy Richardson, Winston Reed, Hector Saravia

*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:** Faith, Sun City; their pastor: CRE Greg Emery

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## Christian Education

**NO Children's Bible Time today** – Parents: Any restlessness is OK with us! Feel free to use the entry area or the children's corner during the service.

**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** – a new series **starts today**:

- **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):**

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](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.

Our **Deacon of the month** is Diane Hillyard. She will be available at the front of the church after the service if you would like a private prayer or have other needs.

**Thank you to all the volunteers** who helped with Project Connect last Tuesday! The campus was *alive* with unhoused guests, their pets, and agencies to provide immediate resources.

**Lunch with Len:** Pastor Len invites anyone interested to join him for lunch in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 15th at 11:45 a.m. The purpose will be to have a good time and an informal "interim" discussion about UPC's identity and priorities. Bring your own lunch—and whatever *you* are pondering. The plan is to do this once a month.

**Cooling Center Resurrection?** Three Tempe churches (including us) have begun conversations about a possible we-can-do-it rotating-location cooling center to save lives this summer. UPC would likely host one month if it flies (subject to needed approvals within UPC). If this is something that interests you, speak with Catherine May or Dan Abbott.

**'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>.

# This Week in the Life of UPC

*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., 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)

## **Mon., May 5**

4:30 pm                    Adult Christian Education Team (Z)  
7:00 pm                    Administration Committee (Z)  
8:30 pm                    AA Meeting (Rm 7)

## **Tue., May 6**

4:00 pm                    Violin Lessons (Rm 2)

## **Wed., May 7**

9:00 am                    Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)  
10:15 am                   Office Calendaring Meeting (CR)  
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 8**

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

## **Fri., May 9**

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

## **Sat., May 10**

7:00 am                    I-HELP guests depart  
8:00 am                    Men's Breakfast (MR)

## **Sun., May 11**

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)

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)

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*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	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