

The Church of the Red Rocks

United Church of Christ

Inspired by God's grace we love and welcome all, serve all and seek justice for all.

March 5, 2023 — Second Sunday in Lent – Year A

SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT

“Called to Go” – 9:30AM

Welcome to all - those who are present in the sanctuary, our guests and visitors, and those who are joining us via livestream on Facebook and on our new YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/@churchoftheredrocks>. When you worship with CRR, you are “at home.” We pray you will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit during this time of worship. If you would like to receive information about CRR please **be certain we have your email address**. Let us know if you have questions or needs.

To ponder as we gather:

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris, arr. Mark Hayes

Greeting & Welcome

Pastor Marvin Morgan

One: Whoever you are or where ever you are on life's journey...

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Gathering Hymn

“Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days”

Hymnal #211

Call to Worship

Gayle Potter

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

All: “Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

All: “Go towards” God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.

One: We fear the unknown and that of which we have limited understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

All: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith.

Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.

Invocation

Gayle Potter

One: Let us pray.

All: God of calls and courage, you draw us towards your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibilities. We experience heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith. As you call us to go into an uncertain and unknown future, O God, grant us the courage needed to let go of all that we have known so that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. In the name of the One who so loves the world we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gayle Potter

One: O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey.

All: May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace and restore us to hope everlasting.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear, and mistakes made. God's unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and whose weary journey brings tears. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength. God has not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We welcome God's healing and salvation through Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 12:1-4a

Gayle Potter

New Testament Reading

John 3:1-17

Pastor Morgan

Anthem

"What Wondrous Love"

arr. Jack Schrader

Message

Nicodemus - Clearly Revealed in the Text

Pastor Morgan

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of the People

Pastor Morgan

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Gracious and Giving God, you have called us to give of our resources so that others may experience the new life to which you are inviting us. Let our gifts be for the birthing of new life in our local, global, and faith communities. In the name of Jesus, the Christ we pray. Amen.

Offertory

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

arr. Fred Bock

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. A-men.

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Morgan

O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Departing to Serve ... with God's Kind of Love

*Sending Hymn

"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

Hymnal # 77

*Benediction

Pastor Morgan

Friends, go forth with the courage of God to guide you into those places of restlessness and uncertainty. For we are called to go...From our places of comfort. From our certainties and complacency. From our old life and into the new. May the call of God not just call us from but toward a love so compelling that we are willing to trust our whole self (+) into the embrace of the Creator, into the abiding love of Christ, and into the sacred dance of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Postlude

"To God Be the Glory"

W.H. Doane

*When our worship is over, our service begins.
In Jesus' name, go and serve the world God loves.*

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Our church families pray for each other: Please pray for:

Bunny A., Elaine G., Iris K., Sue L., Barb M., Martha T., Pat W., Jed S., Chase J., Arlene P., Jack K., Sonja O., Roswita N., Iris K., Antonia S. and Scott K.

If you or someone you love would like to be added to The Prayer Circle please let the office know.
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Time and Talent Surveys:

Would you like to know more about one or more volunteer opportunities through CRR? Please indicate (no commitment implied!) on the survey cards and deposit it in the offering basket as you leave.

WEEKLY:

Monday: Knitting Into the Mystery at CRR 1PM
Tuesday: Bible study at Sedona Winds, in the Library 11 AM
Thursday: Adult Bible Study at CRR 1PM, Bell Choir practice 1-3 PM
Friday: Yin Yoga at CRR 9AM, EDGE (hybrid) 10:15AM

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

1st Monday of the Month: Game ON! at CRR 1-3PM
2nd & 4th Mondays- Men's Breakfast 8AM

JOIN US! 2nd Sunday Lunch- March 12th after service

The Transition Team is hosting "Connecting Conversations" small groups at the church on March 15 at 10am and March 23 at 1pm.

And there will be meetings in people's homes on March 2 at 10am, March 7 at 10am, March 14 at 10am, March 29 at 1pm and March 30 at 10am.

**SAVE THE DATE! JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:
MICHAEL HOPPE IN CONCERT 3/19!**

THE CHURCH of the RED ROCKS UCC

An Open and Affirming / Stephen Ministry Congregation

The Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor [PastorMorgan@churchoftheredrocks.com]

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

KeliAnne Piscopo, Church Administrator

Gayle Potter, Liturgist

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EMAIL: info@churchoftheredrocks.com

Current Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9AM- 5PM

**additional hours on Saturday and/or Sunday (as needed)*

Pastoral Counseling by appointment please call the office

Week-At-A-Glance at CRR

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<i>Lenten discussion 10AM</i>		<i>WMM 1:30 PM Zoom</i>	<i>Stephen Min. 9:30AM</i>	<i>Yin Yoga 9AM PCH</i>	
	<i>Knitting into the Mystery 1PM</i>	<i>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11am</i>	<i>Barbershop 5-7pm</i>	<i>Adult Bible Study 1PM</i>	<i>EDGE 10:15 Zoom</i>	
	<i>Game ON! 1-3PM</i>			<i>Bells 1:30-3pm</i>	<i>COL: Bob & Janet Moore 11AM</i>	
				<i>T Team 3pm</i>		

* indicates events NOT @ CRR



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