

# 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.*

April 2, 2023 PALM SUNDAY – Year A  
SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT  
“Open the Gates” – 9:30AM

**Welcome to all** - those who are present in the sanctuary, our guests and visitors, and also those who are joining us, via livestream on Facebook and on our YouTube Channel. 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

*“The Palms”*

Jean Fauré

#### Greeting & Welcome

Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

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

**All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

#### Gathering Hymn

*“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

Hymnal #216

#### Call to Worship

AJ Cook

Lector & Choir: Open the gates, for on this side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.

**All Others: Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city.**

**They are the Jewish poor and marginalized.**

Lector & Choir: Entering through the gates, we ride in on horses with the powerful armor of Rome, bind the festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!

**All Others: (Waving branches) Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd binds the festal procession by laying down palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna!”**

**All: (Waving branches) Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”**

#### Invocation

AJ Cook

One: Let us pray.

**All: God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem on this special day, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly to redeem all people, we pray. Amen.**

#### Prayer for Transformation and New Life

AJ Cook

**All: O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole hearts. There are times when we enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, and a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements than we are in meeting the needs of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Friends, hear the good news of God: This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. For on this day, God has entered our lives with love and compassion for all who surrender and lay down their lives in Christ. Be assured, on this Palm Sunday that you are loved. You are embraced. And, you are forgiven.

**ALL: We give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, and God's love endures forever. Amen!**

## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

AJ Cook

## New Testament Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Morgan

## Anthem

*"On The Road to Jerusalem"*

Joseph M. Martin

## Message

"A Sandwich Without the Meat or A Journey with Jesus through Holy Week"

Pastor Morgan

## Responding with Prayer and Generosity

### Prayers of the People

Pastor Morgan

### Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Kindred in Christ, God is good, and God's steadfast love endures forever and ever. Because of God's enduring love, we cherish and give thanks for every good gift in our lives. Today, on this day God has made, we come to share out of the abundance of God's love and light among us so the world may know this boundless love that has no end.

### Offertory

Austin Shaw, Pianist

### \*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

God of heaven and earth, as the crowd offered to you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love.

**ALL: Amen.**

### Service of Holy Communion

[all are welcome]

Pastor Morgan

### Invitation to the Table

### Prayer of Consecration:

**All: Holy God, send your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grapes that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us so we might be taken, blessed, broken and distributed so others might know the blessings of living in worldwide communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### Words of Institution:

Pastor: On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

**All: "This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me."**

Pastor: And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

**All: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me."**

**[On this special day, we invite all who are able to come to the front of the sanctuary where the bread and the cup will be served.]**

Pastor: Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**The Blessing:**

Pastor: (+) May the presence of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. Amen.

**Thanksgiving:**

**All: We have been fed, Dear God, by your presence and led by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

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

**\*Sending Hymn**

*"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"*

Hymnal #213

**\*\*Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

**ALL: Together, we are embraced by an enduring and boundless love that forges us together in shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"**

Pastor: Friends, Go forth humbly to serve the God whose love endures forever. Go forth in the name of the Christ who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey. Go forth in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that calls us to rejoice in this very day God has made. God's love endures forever.

**ALL: God's love endures forever. Amen!**

**Postlude**

*"Christ We All Adore Thee"*

Theodore DuBois

*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., Sue L., Barb M., Martha T., Pat W., Jed S., Chase J., Arlene P., Jack K., Sonja O., Roswita N., and Antonia S.  
*If you or someone you love would like to be added to The Prayer Circle, please let the office know.*  
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**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 1:30-3 PM
- Friday: Yin Yoga at CRR 9AM, EDGE (hybrid) 10:15AM

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:**

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

**TODAY @ 2PM- Austin Shaw- Piano recital**



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>- Maundy Thursday- 5PM service of Tenebrae with communion**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>- EASTER SUNDAY- 6:30 AM Sunrise service, 9 AM & 11 AM services with breakfast following in PCH!**

**PLEASE BRING A FLOWER WITH YOU TO CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY FOR THE FLOWERING OF THE CROSS!**

**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

AJ Cook, Liturgist

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**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**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><i>Game ON!</i> 1-3 PM</p> <p><i>Knitting into the Mystery</i> 1PM</p> <p>* St. Andrew's Community Supper</p>	<p>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11am</p>	<p>PMM 9 AM</p> <p>Barbershop 5-7pm</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 1PM</p> <p>Bells 1:30-3pm</p> <p>T Team 3pm</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 5PM</b></p>	<p>Yin Yoga 9AM PCH</p> <p>EDGE 10:15AM Zoom</p> <p>Good Friday</p>		<p><b>EASTER 6:30 AM Sunrise</b></p> <p><b>9 AM &amp; 11 AM services</b></p>

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR



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