

# 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 9, 2023 - EASTER/RESURRECTION SUNDAY – Year A

SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT

“Toward the Tomb” – 9:00AM & 11:00 AM

**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:

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.” John 20:1*

*Easter begins a new season. It's a new week and a new day. The power and glory of the resurrection forges forth a new way of being. Life and death have been transformed through the work of Christ. The emptiness of the tomb demonstrates the power of what has been left behind as well as previews the promise ahead. In the weeks of the Easter season, we journey from the tomb with Jesus and the early disciples from that perspective.*

*From the Day of Easter to the Day of Pentecost, we find God in flesh and in spirit moving in the world and in us...from the tomb. - [UCC – Worship Ways]*

### Gathering for Worship

- Prelude** *“Christ Arose”* Roger Wilson
- 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** *“The Day of Resurrection”* Hymnal #245
- Call to Worship** Lynda Shephard  
One: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!  
**All: Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!**  
One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb to seek the Word in Flesh.  
**All: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!**  
One: We find God alive in the searching, in the garden, in our hope-filled spaces.  
**All: Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!**
- Handbell Choir Anthem** *“The Strife is O'er”* Arnold Sherman
- Invocation** Lynda Shephard  
One: Let us pray.  
**ALL: O, Redeeming God, like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb, we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work with our own teary eyes. In this hour, O God, elevate us in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit, so that others may be awakened through our preaching and proclaiming the good news: news of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people. Amen.**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life** *(responsively)* Lynda Shephard  
One: God, you call us to step out of the tombs that aim to consume us and more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. In stillness and in silence, let us acknowledge the ways we have been separated from the richness of who you have called us to be.

**A Moment of silence**

**All: We admit that we have not always remembered the creative power of resurrection. In a world where dreams and joy have been entombed, and chaos is celebrated and normalized, we have not always considered the divine ingenuity at work that calls us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we met you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.**

**Assurance of Grace** Pastor Morgan  
We know you can bring us back to life, O God—that you will meet us in the shadows and remind us that there are no limits to this life. With the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit, we are revived.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 Lynda Shephard  
**New Testament Reading** John 20:1-18 Pastor Morgan

**Anthem** *"Fanfare and Hymn for the Risen Savior"* Allen Pote  
CRR Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, SACS singers & NAU brass quartet

**Message** "Do We See Like John?" Pastor Morgan  
**Reception of New Church Members**

**Responding with Prayer and Generosity**

**Prayers of the People** Pastor Morgan  
**Invitation to Generosity** Pastor Morgan  
**Offertory** *"All to Christ"* Adam Mason  
**\*Doxology** *"He Lives"* Alfred Ackley

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Morgan  
Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.  
**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 Easter Sunday, we invite all who are able to follow the guidance of the Ushers by coming to the *rear 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**

*"Yours is the Glory"*

Hymnal #253

**\*\*Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection, may we go toward the tomb, a place seemingly devoid of life. May we find life in all its glory and spread the good news that life prevails, that we are redeemed, and that love never fails.

**ALL: Amen!**

**Postlude**

*"Hallelujah"*

Dick Torrans

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

**Your gifts, tithes and offerings** may be placed in an offering basket during today's service. Additionally, as we seek to further respond to the recent US hurricane victims, baskets will also be available, at the rear of the sanctuary, where you may place your gifts, at the end of today's service. Your generous giving, for church support and for "disaster relief" assures lives will be touched and transformed far beyond our walls. Thank you!

**No Coffee Hour/Social Time Today:** Prompt departure from the parking lot by early worshippers will help to assure ample parking spaces for those who will attend at 11:00 a.m. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.



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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

**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

Lynda Shephard, 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
DAR 10:30AM	Men's Brkfst 8AM		Stephen Ministry 9:30 AM	Yin Yoga 9AM PCH		
Knitting into the Mystery 1PM		WMM 1:30 PM- Zoom	Adult Bible Study 1PM	EDGE 10:15AM Zoom		
	*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11am		Bells 1:30-3pm			
		Barbershop 5-7pm	T Team 3pm			

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR

