

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 23, 2023 - Third Sunday of Easter – Year A

9:30AM

The theme question for today's worship service is, "In times of upset and confusion where do you find comfort and consolation?"

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:

From the Beatles "*The Long and Winding Road*"

*Many times I've been alone
And many times, I've cried
Anyway you'll never know
The many ways I've tried
And still they lead me back
To the long and winding road..."*

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

"The Long & Winding Road"

McCartney & Lennon

Greeting & Welcome

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

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

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Gathering Hymn

"Lift High The Cross"

Hymnal #198 vs. 1,3 & 5

Call to Worship

Lynn Schreiner

One: God of the open road, God of the twisting path, God of the narrow and upward way, your people are gathered for worship!

All: In this hour, fortify us with provisions for the journey, courage and faith and compassion, and endurance to face any hardship. Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, encouraging us, loving us. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who journeys with us. Amen.

Handbell Choir Anthem

"Restored"

Sandra Eithun

Opening Prayer

Lynn Schreiner

One: We need your presence on the long road, Lord.
The road between fear and hope,
the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.

**All: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!**

**Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,
let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Lynn Schreiner

One: How deeply you have loved us, Jesus; how willingly you stepped into our experience, how completely you empathized with all that we endure.

All: Teach us to love as you have loved us.

One: How sacrificially you have loved us, Jesus; how completely you gave yourself for us, how courageously you suffered for our sakes.

All: Teach us to love as you have loved us.

One: How restoratively you have loved us, Jesus; how generously you share your life, how extravagantly you make yourself available to us.

All: Teach us to love as you have loved us. We praise you for your love which is given so freely and so unconditionally. And we thank you for believing that we could learn to offer such love to each other. Amen.

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Reading from the Hebrew Testament

Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19

Lynn Schreiner

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 13-32

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Sermon Hymn

"Emmaus Bound on Easter Day" to the tune of *"The Water is Wide"*

Emmaus-bound on Easter Day, two travelers walked along the way.
They'd once had hope, but hope had died When you, O Lord, were crucified.

When you appeared beside the two, they could not see that it was you;
But as they talked and shared their pain, You gave them hope and joy again.

For as you spoke to them God's word, explaining all they'd seen and heard,
They understood what God had done and that a new day had begun.

They shared their home; you broke the bread. They saw you, risen from the dead!
That moment's grace helped them to see The Gift of God's eternity.

In scripture and at table, too, O Risen Lord, may we know you.
And may your presence give us grace to share God's love in every place.

Message

An Unexpected Surprise After Arriving Home

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Anthem

"Walking On High Places"

H. Helvey

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Response (sung by all)

"Amazing Grace"

Hymnal #547 v. 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; Tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

By our smallest actions, we become part of a bigger world. The smallest giving can be an expression of the good spirit of generosity and caring. May we carry through the doorway of each new day this good spirit of generosity and caring. (Francis Macnab/h)

Offertory

"Open Our Eyes"

M. Hayes

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Elusive God, companion on the way, you walk behind, beside, beyond; you catch us unawares. Break through the disillusionment and despair clouding our vision, that, with wide-eyed wonder, we may find our way and journey on as messengers of your good news. This we pray as we offer our tithes and offerings on this day. Amen.

***Doxology**

Praise God whose breath fills all the Earth. Whose love reveals our sacred worth. Whose Spirit forms one family. Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

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

***Sending Hymn**

"O Savior, Let Me Walk With You"

Hymnal #503

****Blessing**

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

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

"Be My Vision"

M. Hayes

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. 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:

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

JOIN US AFTER SERVICE TODAY! The Transition Team invites everyone to join them for "Making Connections" where we will we will present a summary of what we heard ... of where and how we "meet Jesus" in our faith journey together as the Church of the Red Rocks



Purple Prayer Cards are located behind each pew. Please feel free to fill one out and drop it in a basket or give it to one of the ushers.

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

Lynn Schreiner, Liturgist

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INTERNET: www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

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>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Knitting into the Mystery 1PM</i>	<i>Men's Brkfst 8AM</i>		<i>Stephen Ministry 9:30 AM</i>	<i>CANCELLED Yin Yoga 9AM PCH</i>		
<i>CRR Website Team 3PM</i>	<i>PEO 1PM</i>	<i>CRR Council 1PM</i>	<i>Adult Bible Study 1PM</i>	<i>EDGE 10:15AM Zoom</i>		
	<i>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11am</i>	<i>Barbershop 5-7pm</i>	<i>Bells 1:30-3pm T Team 3pm</i>			

* indicates events NOT @ CRR

