

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.*

May 7, 2023 — Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year A  
SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT  
"The Way" – 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:

**Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Month:** In Japan, many churches greet the congregation simply before the service, then sit down and quietly wait for the service to begin. Some people turn to God and silently pray, others read the day's Scripture over and over, and still others check the bulletin. I think this says a lot about the spirit of the Japanese people.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

"The Call"

Ralph Vaughn Williams  
Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

Greeting & Welcome

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

**All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Gathering Hymn

"Come, My Way, My Truth, and My Life"

Hymnal #331

Call to Worship

Sally Phillips

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)

(In Japan, Call to Worship is often limited to reading words from the Bible, because it is God, not people, who invites us to worship.)

Invocation

Sally Phillips

One: Let us pray.

**All: Gracious God, we now open our eyes, ears and hearts (to listen to you). Please speak to us and give us Your word, for we cannot live on bread alone. Please light up our insides with the work of the living Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sally Phillips

Holy God, we were not able to love You with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves. We wanted to be forgiven, but we could not forgive others. Please give us the grace of forgiveness so that we can get back on our feet this day. There are still conflicts in this world. As the U.S. and Japan have experienced, conflicts and battles can only lead us to hatred. Please give us Your will and wisdom to overcome conflicts and live together. Lead us to a new step, free from hatred and conflict. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Assurance of Grace

Pastor Morgan

God hears our prayers. May our sins be cleansed, and we be remade as peacemakers. May God be with those who are in pain, suffering, and hardship right now. This is what the Lord says: "I have swept away your offense like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." Amen.

## Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 7:55-60

Sally Phillips

## New Testament Reading

John 14:1-14

Pastor Morgan

## Message

TBA

Pastor Morgan

## Anthem

*"Trust In the Lord and Do Good"*

Joseph Martin

## Responding with Prayer and Generosity

### Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

God blesses us abundantly. Let us respond to the grace we have received and offer good things to God with thanksgiving and devotion.

### Offertory

*"C Cypher"*

Wilbur Held

### \*Doxology

*"Lift High the Cross"*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Morgan

Holy God, You have abundantly blessed us to journey through this past week and we are most grateful. You have filled our lives with gifts, and we now return some of those gifts to You. Please use them for your work. In Jesus Christ's name.

**All: Amen.**

## Service of Holy Communion

[all are welcome to partake]

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."**

[IN A MOMENT WE WILL EAT TOGETHER]

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."**

[IN A MOMENT WE WILL DRINK TOGETHER]

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**

*"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

Hymnal #400

**\*\*Blessing** (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Pastor Morgan

Go forth into the world in peace. Serve the Lord God, love your neighbor, love the Lord God, and serve your neighbor. May the Grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

**All: Amen!**

**Postlude**

*"In Celebration: The Solid Rock"*

arr. Gayden Sikes

***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.*

*Prayer requests may also be added to the Church of the Red Rocks Prayer Wall at:*

<https://churchoftheredrocks.com> under the heading "About Us"

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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
- Friday: Yin Yoga at CRR 9AM, EDGE (hybrid) 10:15AM

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:**

\*Many of our classes and meetings will **BE ON HAITUS** over the summer and will resume in September. Please see the calendar for current events and classes.

**NEXT SUNDAY MAY 14TH- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck!**

**Mother's Day & Music Appreciation Sunday!**

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. God Bless!

Your gifts, tithes and offerings may be placed in a basket as you leave worship today. Your generous giving means that lives will be touched and transformed far beyond our walls. Thank you.



**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

Sally Phillips, Liturgist

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EMAIL: [receptionist@churchoftheredrocks.com](mailto:receptionist@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**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Knitting into the Mystery</i> 1PM  CRR Website Committee 3PM	<i>Men's Breakfast</i> 8AM  *Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM	Worship & Music Ministry 10AM  Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM  <i>Bells</i> 1:30-3PM  T Team 3PM	Yin Yoga 9AM  EDGE 10:15AM Zoom		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck   Mother's Day/Music Appreciation Sunday

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR

