

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 14, 2023 — Sixth Sunday of Easter – Year A  
Music Appreciation Sunday and Mother's Day  
"Witness of Love" – 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:

*"Some people come and go and are forgotten. But there are other people who share a part in our destinies. They come, they go, but they are never forgotten. They come, they go, but even after they go... they're still here. They never really went anywhere."* — C. JoyBell C.

Gathering for Worship

**Prelude** "Arabesque" arr. Claude Debussy  
**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** "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" Hymnal #561

**Call to Worship** Marcia Byrd

One: Creator God, you have called each of us.

All: We say, yes, to your invitation and we gather as one to worship you.

One: Creator God, you invite us to stay with you.

All: You never leave nor forsake us, you abide with us, and we gather as one to worship you.

One: Creator God, you have shown your love for us.

All: Your welcome is extravagant, and Your faithfulness abounds. We gather as one to worship you.

**Handbell Anthem** "Celebrate with Joy" Cynthia Dobrinski

**Minute for Missions: Music & Ministries** Sue Buffum, Courtney Evans, Thommy Long

**Choral Anthem** "To Be Your Song" Joseph M. Martin

**Invocation** Marcia Byrd

One: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us on this special sabbath day, when we show our appreciation for the extraordinary Music that resonates within and beyond the walls of Church of the Red Rocks. Thank you for all who have shared**

their musical gifts and skills within the church and in many other venues, far and near. We are thankful also for those whose generosity, past, present and future, has helped to enable and support the variety of musical presentations that comprise the Music Ministry of this congregation. You have blessed us with Music Ministry staff whose dedication and quality of services are beyond measure.

And with equal excitement, we've come on this special day to honor and remember our loving and caring Mothers. We thank you for those mothers who raised us through childhood. Whether birth moms, adopted moms, older sisters, aunts, grandmothers, stepmothers, or others, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may now reflect toward others the love they showed toward us. Amen.

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Marcia Byrd

**All: We come in boldness and in brokenness Loving God. We come in repentance asking for your grace and mercy for the indifference we do towards you and our neighbors. We have failed to keep your commandments to love you above all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us the grace to abide in you as you remain abiding in us that we may live as Christ lives in this world.**

**Assurance of Grace**

Pastor Morgan

God whose goodness and mercy follows after us, finds us, and gathers us like a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings. God covers us with God's grace and holds us close declaring, "My child you are forgiven. Come back to me for you are loved."

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music**

*"Goodnight Moon"*

Eric Whitacre

Heather Drusedum, soprano

Courtney Evans, piano

**Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Acts 17:22-31

Marcia Byrd

**Harmonica Medley**

M.L. Morgan, harmonica

**New Testament Reading**

John 14:15-21

Pastor Morgan

**Meditation Hymn**

*"O God, Whose Steadfast Love"*

Hymnal # 426 vs. 1, 3-4

**Message**

Life's Early Lessons

Pastor Morgan

**Responding with Prayer and Generosity**

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Morgan

**Invitation to Generosity**

Pastor Morgan

We come in thanksgiving for God's great faithfulness and abiding presence. We come responding with generosity for kingdom building and to be avenues of God's provisions.

**Offertory**

*"Psalm of Gratitude"*

CRR Handbell Choir

**\*Doxology**

*"Lift High the Cross"*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Morgan

May these gifts be a testimony of our faithfulness to you, Abiding God, even as we offer to you all that we are and all that we have for your glory, honor, and praise.

**All: Amen.**

**Anthem**

*"He Never Failed Me Yet"*

Robert Ray

Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers

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

## \*Sending Hymn

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"*

Hymnal #12 vs. 1&3

## \*Benediction

Pastor Morgan

The Creator God is with you and all around you—upholding, sustaining, loving. Go, and be Christ's justice and peace! Go, and be God's goodness and love! Go, and be the Holy Spirit's visible expression!

**ALL: Amen.**

## Postlude

*"To God Be the Glory"*

Crosby & 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., 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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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!

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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 1-3 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

**JOIN US! 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck- TODAY after service**

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNE!**

*Please contact Maureen Zdimal or call the office.*

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### **Transition Team Update: May 21<sup>st</sup> After Worship**

Join us to hear about our continuing journey toward our new settled Pastor

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**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

Marcia Byrd, Lector

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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**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	Knitting into the Mystery 1PM  CRR Website Team 3PM	*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM	FEAM 3:30 PM  Barbershop 5-7PM	CCM 11AM  Adult Bible Study 1PM  T Team 3PM	Yin Yoga 9AM PCH  EDGE 10:15 AM Zoom	

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR



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