

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 21, 2023 – Year A  
9:30AM

**Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Month and Ascension Sunday  
“As We Are One”**

**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:

[Please notice that today’s worship service is based partially on an Asian Order of Worship written by Rev. Tender Rickysach, Pastor Chuukese Bible Ministry at Waipahu United Church of Christ, in Waipahu, Hawaii; an active member of Hawaii Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries UCC. Their “simple” order consists of Passing the Peace, Call to Worship with words from Scripture, a Homily, Confession and Assurance of Pardon. Offering and Benediction.]

Gathering for Worship

- Prelude** *“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”* arr. Gary Prim
- Greeting & Welcome** Pastor Marvin Morgan  
One: Whoever you are or where ever you are on life’s journey...  
**All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**
- Minute for Missions** Jan Wells
- Gathering Hymn** *“Alleluia, Gracious Jesus”* Hymnal #257 vs. 1,3 & 4
- Passing of the Peace (You are invited to please touch the shoulder of those you greet.)**  
Pastor: Peace from the Host-of-All be with you.  
**All: And also with you!**
- Call to Worship** Dale Pearson  
One: In this season of thought-provoking and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.  
**All: We come to be inspired by the stories of love and joyfulness.**  
One: We come to listen for words of hope and renewal.  
**All: We come with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts. Blessed be our God.**  
One: Come Let us worship our God - the One who holds all things in store for us in this season of renewal.  
**All: Amen.**

## A Scripture Reading from Acts of the Apostles 1:6-14 (NRSV)

Dale Pearson

1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

1:11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven";

1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

1:13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

1:14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## Prayer of Confession

Dale Pearson

One: Let us unite our voices in the Prayer of Confession.

**All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin!**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presences and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Morgan

In the words of Jesus, "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Jesus said, "your sins are forgiven."

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## New Testament Reading

John 17:1-11

Pastor Morgan

## Meditation Hymn

*"My Hope Is Built"*

Hymnal # 403 vs. 1 & 2

## Message

"So Much to Handle in About Forty Days"

Pastor Morgan

## Anthem

*"There is Room in My Father's House"*

Joseph Martin

## Responding with Prayer and Generosity

## 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

*"We Are An Offering"*

arr. Mark Hayes

KeliAnne Piscopo, Liturgical Sign Language

## \*Doxology

*"Lift High the Cross"*

Hymnal #198 (refrain only)

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Morgan

Ke Akua, Lord of heaven and earth, accept now, our makana (gifts) and our lives that the world and all people may praise Your name. 'Āmene. (Amen.)

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

**\*Sending Hymn**

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

Hymnal #300 vs. 1,2 & 5

**\*Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make God's face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up God's countenance upon you and give you peace, in the name of God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

All: 'Āmene (Amen)

**Postlude**

*"Thine Is the Glory"*

Edmond Budry

*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.*

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!

**Prayer requests may also be added to the Church of the Red Rocks Prayer Wall at:**  
<https://churchoftheredrocks.com> under the heading "About Us"



**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> Tuesdays- Men's Breakfast 8AM

**JOIN US after service TODAY for a Transition Team UPDATE!**

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNE!**  
*Please contact Maureen Zdimal or call the office.*

**Faith In Action Ministry Distributions**



The Faith in Action Ministry met to distribute funds to organizations that are an important part of serving our local community and beyond. Distributions are made twice a year; a total of \$12,750 was distributed. Funds for the Faith in Action Ministry Program come from the church's annual budget plus the Mission Endowment Fund created and sustained by members of our congregation.  
Go to [www.churchoftheredrocks.com](http://www.churchoftheredrocks.com) Community Life/Leading Through Service to see the list of organizations receiving funds.

**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

Dale Pearson, Lector

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INTERNET: [www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com](http://www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com)

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>
<p>Transition Team Update TODAY after service</p>	<p>Knitting into the Mystery 1PM</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast 8AM</p> <p>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM</p>	<p>CRR Council 1PM</p> <p>Barbershop 5-7PM</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 1PM</p> <p>Transition Team 3PM</p>	<p>Yin Yoga 9AM PCH</p> <p>EDGE 10:15 AM Zoom</p>	

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR

