

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.*

June 11, 2023 – Year A

9:30AM

A Focus on **PRIDE** Month and the Second Sunday After Pentecost  
“Mercy”

**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:

*“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.” — Abraham Lincoln*

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

*“Something Beautiful”*

William Gaither

Greeting & Welcome

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

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

**All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Gathering Hymn

*“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

Hymnal #44

Call to Worship

Sue Buffum

ONE: This month we celebrate **LGBTQ+ Pride** as we work toward greater inclusion in every church, workplace, and family.

**ALL: We gather today to be refreshed, renewed, and strengthened in our faith and in our resolve for the work we must do together.**

ONE: Listen, there is a voice calling us.

**ALL: It is the voice of our Divine Beloved.**

ONE: The one who loves us invites us to mingle our voices together.

**ALL: We call out in worship and praise together.**

ONE: Bring your hopes, expectations, and longings that you have carried with you throughout the week.

**ALL: Here they are. We speak of them in our spirit and with our words.**

ONE: Come and worship. Come and praise. Come and pray.

**ALL: We commit ourselves to this sacred time of celebration.**

Invocation (together)

Sue Buffum

ONE: Let us pray.

**ALL: Reveal Yourself, Holy One. Reveal Yourself as we gather in this sacred space. Rise up in this sanctuary. Show us a manifestation of who You are. We call forth a knitting together by Your Spirit of all created beings within the sound of our voices.**

**Reveal Yourself, Loving God. Reveal Yourself as we gather in this sacred space. Awaken and reach out within each one of us so that your intangible essence will be felt and known by all. Reveal Yourself Gracious God. Reveal Yourself now, while we are gathered in this sacred space. You have**

promised to make yourself known to us. We now call forth the revelation of You as Presence within, between, and around us.

As we step into Your Sacred Circle, we invite You into our Sacred Circles. And as we reveal ourselves to You, we also call upon You, Most Holy God, to reveal Yourself now, that we may see and sense your Divine presence. In your many names we pray. Amen.

### Prayer for Transformation And New Life

Sue Buffum

ONE: We acknowledge our suffering, brought about by queerphobic rhetoric and violence in politics, religion, and in nearly every other public and private arena.

**ALL: So many of us are sick, scared, dying, or trapped.**

ONE: Holy Love, we can't manage this alone.

**ALL: We are discouraged and calling out to you.**

ONE: We acknowledge racism and the increase in violence toward our black and brown siblings.

**ALL: This is unacceptable and sinful. We examine ourselves first for any prejudice that contributes to our current racialized and homophobic environment.**

ONE: God of Mercy, change us where and when we need to be changed.

**ALL: God of the Resistance, we stand with you and with our black and brown siblings in rebellion against all our racist systems.**

ONE: We acknowledge that it is hard to see ourselves as you see us.

**ALL: Too frequently we put ourselves down or feel shameful about our personhood.**

ONE: We malign your excellence and creativity when we try to fit into boxes not made in our shape and image.

**ALL: Remind us, Dear God, of our goodness as we praise Your goodness toward us.**

ONE: The extent of Your image is a mystery to us. Help us to see this great mystery in ourselves.

**ALL: Give us strength, even amid our fears, to claim our inherent sacredness, and to proclaim, with voices united, "All of us are made in the image of The Divine!"**

### Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Friends, all that The Creator has made is good. The Creator made each of you and you are good. You are holy and sacred. Proudly. lift your heads. Let us glorify God by celebrating the beautiful mystery and diversity that we each hold in ourselves. May your minds be at peace, your spirits soar, and your bodies be elated, as you feel Holy Love surrounding and uplifting you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Meditation Hymn

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

Hymnal #522

### A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 12:1-9

Sue Buffum

### A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Pastor Morgan

### Message

Ordinary Time is Not Ordinary

Pastor Morgan

### Anthem

*"Beautiful Savior"*

Tom Fettke

## Responding with Prayer and Generosity

### Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

### Offertory

*"Isn't He "*

arr. Mark Hayes

### \*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Morgan

Creator God, we are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love and teach us to weave our lives together now and always.

**All: Amen.**

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

**\*Sending Hymn**

*"They'll Know We Are Christians" (see insert)*

Peter Scholtes

**\*\*Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

Dear friends, go forth into the world. When the light is too bright, be comforted in the shadows. When the darkness is too dense, be illumined by the light of God that is within you. When the road is too rocky be soothed by the grass nearby. And, when the chill is really biting, be warmed by the breath of God.

**All: Amen**

**Postlude**

*"Fugue"*

A. Scarlatti

***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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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"

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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

**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 June 18<sup>th</sup>**- Join us after service for a Transition Team update...& coffee of course! **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

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**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

Please, mark your calendars **for Sunday, June 25, 2023.**

Your Church Council has called a Congregational meeting to take place immediately following worship service this morning. The subject of this meeting will be to discuss and then vote on the sale of the lower parking lot to the City of Sedona. Your Church Council encourages you to attend and participate in this significant event in the life of the Church of the Red Rocks.

**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

Sue Buffum, Liturgist

54 Bowstring Drive

TELEPHONE: (928) 282-7963

Sedona, AZ 86336

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/churchredrocks>

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>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Knitting into the Mystery 1PM	Transition Team 1PM  *Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM	WMM Meeting 11AM  Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM  T Team 3PM			Transition Team Update after service  Father's Day

\* indicates events NOT @ CRR

