

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.

July 2, 2023 – Fifth Sunday After Pentecost–Year A

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:

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus reminds his followers about what it is like to be welcomed...and being welcoming. On this July 4th holiday Sunday, with its many hallowed echoes from the past, today is also a day of celebration for the UCC as we are gathered in Indianapolis for the General Synod, plus this being the first Sunday of the month, Jesus invites us to his Welcome Table. Thus, in preparation for worship, you are invited to recall the joy of being warmly welcomed as a guest and what it feels like to warmly welcome others into our hearts and homes.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Come Sunday”

Duke Ellington

Greeting & Welcome

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

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

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Call to Worship

Gene Moore

One: Welcome to worship today on this Fourth of July Weekend.

All: Thanks. We are glad to be here.

One: Especially on a holiday weekend such as the Fourth of July, things can get hectic. Yet, understand that you will find a welcome space here born of our God's graciousness.

All: We are grateful for the hospitality and friendship that are offered here.

One: Come, let us worship the God who always welcomes us.

All: Let us open our hearts to Christ who welcomed friend and stranger alike. AMEN.

*Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In” (see insert) vs. 1 & 3

Gene Moore

Opening Prayer

You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kin-dom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gene Moore

Call to Reconciliation

The idol of our times is personal independence, but in truth, we are bossed around by our faults, our poor choices, the hurts we cause to others. Yet, by God's grace, we are set free from all these passions, so let us join in offering our confessions to the One who welcomes each of us with forgiveness and hope.

Responsive Prayer for Forgiveness

Gene Moore

One: It seems so simple, God of compassion, to offer a cup of cold water to a thirsty person, yet we know we worry more about how that might inflate our bill at the end of the month. We are to open our hearts to others, but they may need to be careful lest they slip on our icy attitudes towards them. People are looking for places to lay their heads, yet our spare bedrooms continue to be the place where only the dust bunnies sleep.

All: Forgive us, Radical Hope. You did not have to become one of us, but you did, so we might know your love. You did not have to welcome us into your family, but you do, so we might experience unexpected grace in our lives. You did not have to die for us, but in Jesus Christ you did, so we might have life with you forever.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Gene Moore

One: Broken, we are made whole; thirsty, we are filled with living water; longing for a renewed relationship with God, we are welcomed with open arms by the One who forgives us.

All: Without a doubt, God's love never comes to an end. We will tell our kids and grandkids of the hope and peace which is ours. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Reading from the Hebrew Testament

Psalms 89:1-2, 11-18

Gene Moore

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Sermon Hymn

"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

Hymnal #594 vs. 1 & 3

Message

The Declaration of In"ter"Dependence

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Anthem

"Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor"

arr. David Chase

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

A Prayer for General Synod

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.

Offertory

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

arr. John Carter

*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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Gathering at Christ Jesus' Welcome Table

Communion Hymn

"One Bread, One Body" (see insert vs. 1 & 2)

Invitation to the Table

(Installation of John C Dorhauer, Plymouth UCC, Seattle -April 17, 2016-adapted)

Are you hungry? Draw near:

The Creator of all sets a table before us—

Bread of Life, Cup of Blessing!

"..."

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Eucharistic Prayer

One: May God be with you!

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: It is good to give thanks and praise.

O Creator of all, we thank you for the life you have made: Powerful, fragile, abundant, precious: A mystery beyond us that sustains us, yet needs our care.

“ ... ”

Therefore, we join our voice with voices of all created things, and with voices of your old and faithful friends, saints who have gone before us to praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Thank you for revealing your life fully in your Beloved, Jesus—Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh—Who calls us to follow into a future of hope, shaped by your love and justice.

“ ... ”

One: And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Come now, Holy Spirit of God as you were present at creation, be present now, and transform these gifts of bread and cup into the sustaining body and blood of Christ. As you were sent by Jesus to be with us on our journey of faith be present now, and transform us who share this meal into one body in Christ.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(Our Savior’s invitation is ... “come unto me all.” You are invited to come forward and to partake of this meal. If you need a Eucharistic Steward to serve you at your pew, a Steward will gladly bring you the communion elements. In this act of remembrance Christ Jesus offers, through the simple gifts of bread and cup, grace and hope for our journeys. Gluten free elements are available.)

Communion Music

“In Remembrance”

Burl Red

Prayer after Communion:

All: Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. (UCC Book of Worship)

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

***Hymn of Commitment**

“Lift Every Voice And Sing”

Hymnal #593 vs.1 & 3

***Blessing**

Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

Postlude

“This Is My Song”

J. Sibelius

Psalm 89

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it—you have founded them. The north and the south—you created them; Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name. You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Our church families pray for each other: Please pray for: Bunny A., Elaine G., Sue L., Barb M., Martha T., Jed S., Chase J., Arlene P., Jack K., Sonja O., Antonia S. and John L.
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

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.

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

Gene Moore, Liturgist

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

INTERNET: www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

EMAIL: 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
Knitting into the Mystery 1PM	*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM	Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM			
*St. Andrew's Community Supper	4 th of July		T Team 3PM			

* indicates events NOT @ CRR

