

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 23, 2023 – Year A

9:30 AM

"Wheat and Weeds Together"

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:

"A seed neither fears light nor darkness, but uses both to grow." — Matshona Dhliwayo

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

"Ville du Havre"

arr. Mark Hayes

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

"O For a World"

Hymnal #575 (all verses)

Call to Worship

AJ Cook

One: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer, may we relish in the fruit of our labor,

All: As we harvest the fruitful seeds of nature and God's Garden, let us share in the bounty with our neighbors.

One: While we channel resources – water, light, fertile ground- to the produce we desire in our gardens,

All: May we also recognize that the weed, the rabbit, the caterpillar also have needs for sustenance.

One: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through sharing.

All: For what our land grows with our tending, is only ours for a moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need. May we share the harvest by tithing back to nature, feeding the hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and setting enough seed aside for the next season of planting.

Invocation

AJ Cook

One: Let us pray.

All: God of many names, mother of all creation, father of all that is, womb of life, and wellspring of all that we can ever know, we invite your presence here as we seek to embody your loving spirit and create your presence among us. We are in need and we turn to you to be with us as we practice creating the kingdom of heaven here on earth. Amen!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

AJ Cook

One: Now, let us join in the prayer of Transformation.

All: God of creation and plenty, we often forget the abundant nature of your love. We forget that there are ample riches from this earth if we would only manage the resources you and we share generously among all your beloved children. We forget that we are all created in your divine beauty, perfect specimens of your holy vision for a people who can love without bounds, share without tallying, and celebrate among the great diversity you have created. Guide us to give of

that abundance, to receive with grace and gratitude, and to turn our hearts from any perceptions of scarcity. We confess that we fall short; and we ask that you show us the path again to your fruitful garden where all things grow and flourish. Amen!

Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Let us know that God has always provided us with growth and abundance and will continue to guide us in the care of bounteous fields that spring forth with plant and animal, both weed and seed. We are all worthy of this enduring joy and sustenance as beloved children of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Listening for Our Still –Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 28:10-19a

AJ Cook

Anthem

"It Is Well With My Soul"

arr. Cindy Berry

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Pastor Morgan

Message

"WHEAT -WEEDS AND A STONE"

Pastor Morgan

Meditation Hymn

"When Peace Like A River"

Hymnal #438 vs. 1&4

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of the People

Pastor Morgan

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Offertory

"Just As I Am"

arr. Gary Prim

*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

Pastor Morgan

We dedicate these resources to doing God's work among God's people. May these gifts plant seeds of justice for all of God's children. May they remind us to love more mercifully and to walk humbly as we tread gently upon this earth.

All: Amen.

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

Sending Hymn

"You Are the Seed"

Hymnal #528

**Blessing

People of God, you are called to go forth and appreciate the weeds among us, as we have each been weeds from time to time. Go from this place during this harvest time and taste the ripeness of a plump tomato, the sweetness of fresh steamed corn, the crisp coolness of a melon. Please go in the knowledge that there is more than enough for all, be it God's earthly blessings that are so delicious and nourishing or God's love that binds us one to the other.

All: Amen

Postlude

"What the World Needs Now"

Burt Bacharach

When our worship is over, our service begins. In Jesus' name, go and serve the world God loves.

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., 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.

PLEASE JOIN US:
Ice Cream Social during Fellowship Time on July 30th

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 AJ Cook, Liturgist

54 Bowstring Drive Sedona, AZ 86336
TELEPHONE: (928) 282-7963
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 | | | | | | |
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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| Knitting into the Mystery 1PM | *Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM | Barbershop 5-7PM | Adult Bible Study 1PM T Team 3PM | | | |

* indicates events NOT @ CRR



"What the World needs now, is LOVE, sweet LOVE, it's the only thing, that there's just too little of..." B. Bacharach

Photo credit: KeliAnne Piscopo 2023©