

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 30, 2023 – Year A

9:30AM

“For Righteousness”

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:

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.” — Martin Luther

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Hallelujah”

Leonard Cohen

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

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

(see insert)

Call to Worship

Dale Pearson

One: O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kingdom of God is like, but also remembers what it was like before.

All: Before creation and kingdoms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.

One: So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into being,

All: And it is from this longing for your kingdom and for you that we enter worship.

One: Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise.

All: Let us rejoice in the Good News together—how nothing can separate us from the presence of God. Amen.

Invocation

Dale Pearson

One: Let us pray..

All: O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a sigh too deep for words. Within that sigh, we wonder, we question, and we hope that all things do, indeed, work together for your good. And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we already are. Let us open ourselves to your presence here. Let us seek first, the kingdom of God, and in our searching, may we be found by you, Beloved, the One who searches for us first. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Dale Pearson

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

All: We call upon our ancestor, Solomon, who knew to ask God for the wisdom to discern between what is in the spirit of God, and what is not. Like Solomon, we admit that we don't always know how to make our way through life—in its nuances, violence, chaos, and unexpected burdens. We also admit that in our struggles, we've made the wrong choice, hurt others, and clung to our shame. Forgive us, O God of Wisdom, and teach us your ways of redemption. Amen.

Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

If God is for us, then who could possibly be against us? Even in all that we've done, and all that we've left undone, nothing can separate us from the love of God. May we let this sink in, all the way to our marrow. And may such faith hold us up to move in the world with accountability, love, tenderness, and forgiveness. Amen.

All: Thanks be to God!

Listening for Our Still –Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 29:15-28

Dale Pearson

Anthem

"Hallelujah, By and By"

Mary McDonald

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Pastor Morgan

Meditation Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

Hymnal #451 vs. 1&4

Message

"The Kingdom of Heaven is Like . . ."

Pastor Morgan

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of the People

Pastor Morgan

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Offertory

"Think About His Love"

arr. Mark Hayes

*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

Like the net that was thrown into the sea and brought in fish of every kind, we celebrate the multitude and diversity of gifts that have been shared here today. May God bless these treasures with the abundance of Christ's love and passion to embody justice in our world.

All: Amen.

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

Sending Hymn

"Revive Us Again"

(see insert)

**Blessing

May the Kingdom of Abundance and Multiplicity be with you, and among you. May it live and move and have its dwelling within you. And may we take the love we've found, our inseparable bond with the Creator, and bring it into fullness in the world beyond these walls.

All: Amen

Postlude

"An Arrangement of Alleluias"

arr. Pam Moore

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

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.

JOIN US TODAY AFTER SERVICE IN PCH!



**Church
Ice Cream
Social**

THE CHURCH of the RED ROCKS UCC

An Open and Affirming / Stephen Ministry Congregation

The Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor [PastorMorgan@churchoftherocks.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, Liturgist

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

INTERNET: www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

EMAIL: receptionist@churchoftherocks.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	GOCOM 9:30AM <i>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM</i>	PMM 9AM Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM T Team 3PM			

* indicates events NOT @ CRR



Photo credit: KeliAnne Piscopo 2023 ©