

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.

August 20, 2023 – Year A

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“For the Heart” – 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:

“When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.” – Kahlil Gibran

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

arr. Douglas Wagner

Greeting & Welcome

Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

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

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Gathering Hymn

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

Hymnal #23

Call to Worship

Sally Phillips

One: Eternal God, the one made flesh and dwelt among us, help us to be present this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to the faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as they are.

All: A “yes” to being present here, even if our minds may, at times, be in other places.

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community of faith, and your call upon our lives to know this is the place where we need to be, in this moment.

All: A “yes” to bringing all that abides in our hearts to you,

One: Come, let us place ourselves in the presence of God.

All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Amen.

Invocation

Sally Phillips

One: Let us pray.

All: Have mercy upon us, O God of Healing. This we ask for ourselves, the surrounding community, and the whole world that is experiencing so much suffering. Grant that we may fully open our hearts to you, without fear or shame, knowing your grace and mercy are sufficient, for all of us.

Then, Dear God, help us to be instruments of your peace, in all the world. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sally Phillips

All: Dear God, as we examine your Holy Word, on this day, may we have the courage to admit when we've been wrong, enough humility to seek forgiveness, and hearts open enough to amend our ways. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Friends, we serve an Almighty God, who knows all about us. Our God is patient and kind, and through Jesus Christ, has already forgiven out sins.

All: Thanks be to God.

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:1-15

Sally Phillips

Anthem

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Mary McDonald

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 15:10-28

Pastor Morgan

Message

TBA

Pastor Morgan

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of The People

Pastor Morgan

As we prepare to offer the Prayers of the People, let us take a moment to lift up the celebrations and concerns of our beloved community. (All who wish to do so are invited to lift up [to call out] the names of those persons who have requested our prayers). This will be followed by (a moment of silence) and a brief prayer by the Pastor.

All: Amen.

SACS Anthem

"A Flower of Tomorrow" from *"Lionteeth"*

Anders Edenroth, composer

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Offertory

"The Hands of Time"

Michel Legrand

***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

God of Heaven and Earth, we give you thanks for the resources shared, on this special day. May we be inspired, for years to come, by the generosity of John and Suzanne Moore, and the many others whose generous gifts have enabled the Church of the Red Rocks to be an extraordinary, and sacred space, where your love and your Spirit abides.

All: Amen.

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

Sending Hymn

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

Hymnal #412

****Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

May God's extravagant welcome go with us wherever we go. May we learn what it means to belong as God's beloved and extend this acceptance out in the world. Let us remember that with courageous love, the waters of justice flow like a mighty stream. And with grounding in our own dignity, the fires of freedom light up the world.

All: Amen!

Postlude

"To God Be the Glory"

William Doane

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

Your gifts, tithes and offerings may be placed in a basket as you leave worship today. Your generous giving means that lives will be touched and transformed far beyond our walls. Thank you!

DONATE
Hawaii's 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund
bit.ly/hcuccrelief
We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.
We are praying with Maui.
HAWAII CONFERENCE
www.hcucc.org

If you feel moved to donate directly to the UCC Hawaii Conference, donate online or mail to:

**700 Bishop St.
Suite 825
Honolulu HI
96813**

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 AFTER SERVICE TODAY for:
“ A Special Fellowship in honor of Suzanne & John Moore”
then at 2PM in the Sanctuary

The Church of the Red Rocks
 proudly present

Lionteeth

(world premiere)

A multi-movement choral suite composed by Anders Edenroth and performed by the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers, choir-in-residence at The Church of the Red Rocks.

Sunday, August 20, 2023 • 2:00 pm
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The Church of the Red Rocks
 54 Bowstring Drive, Sedona, Arizona

Presented free of charge by The Church of the Red Rocks as a gift to the people of Sedona and the Verde Valley.

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

Sally Phillips, 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	CRR Council 1PM Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM T Team 3PM			

* indicates events NOT @ CRR



For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever."

1 Peter 1:24-25