

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.

September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
"Confrontation"

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:

"You may well ask: "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored." – Martin Luther King Jr., "Why We Can't Wait"

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

arr. Gayden Sikes

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

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Hymnal #400

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to our Creator God!

All: The God of our ancestors is with us!

One: Give thanks to the Most Holy God!

All: We call upon the name of our God, and our God responds.

One: Give thanks for God's eternal presence!

All: The steadfast and faithful love of God lasts forever!

Invocation

Gene Moore

Eternal God, when we search for you, we find you and when we seek you, you are already seeking us. Your presence among us changes our circumstances and our lives. We honor and worship you as an act of devotion and discipleship. Infuse us with your Spirit that our witness and ministry may be a testimony to your everlasting love. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gene Moore

Forgiving God, we acknowledge that repentance opens the door to forgiveness and transformation. We turn from our desire for comfort over compassion, easy solutions over challenging resolution, and avoidance over confrontation. We need your strength, fortitude, and conviction to overcome our fear of loss. Help us to make room for the gains of new life for ourselves and our neighbors through generous and sacrificial living.

Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

God is faithful to forgive and to redeem. God will sustain us through the hard work of confronting truth about ourselves, our communities, and our world. Receive the companionship of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us in all truth.

All: Thanks be to God.

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible	Exodus 3:1-15	Pam Moore
Meditation Hymn (<i>seated</i>)	"Nearer, My God, To You"	Hymnal #606 vs. 1 only
A Reading from the Gospels	Matthew 16:21-28	Pastor Morgan
Message	"Called To Be Saints"	Pastor Morgan
Anthem	"Be Still My Soul"	arr. John Purifoy

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of The People		Pastor Morgan
Invitation to Generosity		Pastor Morgan

Jesus posed the question, "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" When we consider the gifts we give and receive, we remember that Creator is also Source. Let us give generously of the abundance of our lives so the world may be made better and God's kingdom may come nearer.

Gratitude Moment	Men's Breakfast	Steve Wells
Offertory	"Living for Jesus"	Harold Lowden
*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 and Thanksgiving		Pastor Morgan
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Generous God, thank you for seeding and inspiring generosity in all of us. May these gifts be a blessing to the ministries of this church. Multiply them and make us fruitful and faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures

Service of Holy Communion [all are welcome to partake]

Invitation to the Table		Pastor Morgan
Prayer of Consecration		

All: God we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ name we pray. Amen.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pastor: On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

All: "This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me."

Pastor: And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

All: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me."

[NOW, LET US COME TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP]

Pastor: Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The Blessing:

Pastor: + May the presence of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. Amen.

Thanksgiving:

All: We have been fed, Dear God, by your presence and led by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.

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

Sending Hymn

"Come Labor On"

Hymnal #532

Benediction

Pastor Morgan

May our lives serve as beacons of hope, compassion, and possibility as we join with God on the journey of truth and love.

Postlude

"Renew Your Church"

Hymnal #311

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

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!

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:

PLEASE CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR RESUMING CLASSES & GROUPS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER!

RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER ARE THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

E.D.G.E. STARTS September 1st
Game ON! STARTS September 11th
Men's Breakfast STARTS September 12th

say Cheese



PICTURE DIRECTORY PHOTOS TODAY!

In Painted Cliffs Hall, before and after worship. (8:45-9:15 & 10:45-11:00)

We hope you will participate in this effort to help us be more aware and connected with each other.

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

Pam & Gene Moore, Liturgists

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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	<i>*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM</i>	Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM T Team 3PM	<i>E.D.G.E. 10:15AM Hybrid</i>	NAU Choral Retreat 8AM- 5PM	

* indicates events NOT @ CRR

