

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.

October 1, 2023 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Year A

9:30AM

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“Going Ahead”

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:

“My father taught me that you can you read a hundred books on wisdom and write a hundred books on wisdom, but unless you apply what you learned then its only words on a page. Life is not lived with intentions, but action.”

— Shannon Alder

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Open Our Eyes Lord”

arr. Gary Prim

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!**

Commissioning of Pastor Search Committee

See Insert

Gathering Hymn

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

Hymnal #23

Call to Worship

Sue Buffum

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

All: **Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.**

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

All: **Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.**

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

All: **Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.**

Invocation (based on Isaiah 55:1) - (In Unison)

Sue Buffum

One: Let us pray.

All: **Lord, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, Dear God, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and to learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world. Amen!**

Prayer of Confession

Sue Buffum

One: Let us confess our sins before God and this host of witnesses.

All: **Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that frequently, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolences, have mistreated those in need, and have often been judgmental. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing in your sight, Oh Lord. Have mercy upon us. Amen!**

A Moment of Silence

(Each worshiper may take this moment to privately confess to God those things they need to surrender to God.)

Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Jesus has already paid for your transgressions, and we are free because our Savior, has made His grace accessible to us. People of God, your sins are forgiven. Amen!

All: Thanks be to God!

Listening for Our Still –Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Exodus 17:1-7

Sue Buffum

Anthem

“A Vision of You”

Cindy Barry

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 21:23-32

Pastor Morgan

Message with Prayers for the Community

“So, What Do You Think?”

Pastor Morgan:

All Mighty God, we ask that you continue to mold us into your likeness. We ask that your Holy Spirit move us into being kind, compassionate, and generous as we live out our faith daily. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Holy God, we pray for those who are hurting, on the margins, excluded, lonely, and dealing with rejection and a lack of acceptance by society. May each person know your love, accept and value them as your precious creations. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Dear God, we lift all the beautiful diversity of your people in prayer that they may all know your presence, grace, and infinite love for them. Shower them with your blessings, and may the church become a safe place for all your people to gather. Help us, Oh God, to strive for unity and harmony and a more just world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Holy One, we pray for all those in our community who are caregivers, first responders, and those who advocate for the well-being of your people. We pray for our police and firefighters, medical personnel, and all who care for us in many ways, watch over them, and protect them from harm. We thank all who care for us and keep us safe each day. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

All Merciful, we lift in prayer our nation, our leaders, our President, and Vice-President, and all those legislators and representatives in our government who are making decisions on our behalf so that they may be fair and just in leading our country. Open their hearts to the suffering of your people and give them the wisdom to lead with compassion and empathy for the least among us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Dear God, we lift in prayer our newly elected President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, **the Reverend Karen Georgia Thompson**, who is to be installed within a few days, and all ecumenical partners and organizations working to achieve justice for all. May your Spirit continue to lead them in ways that honor you, Oh God, as they seek to work together in unity and with the goals of a unified voice of collaboration for the common good of all your beloved people. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers.

Holy one, we ask that you help us to become the beloved community you want us to be. We ask your forgiveness when we neglect our calling to be your hands, heart, and body. May our actions and deeds honor and glorify You. Into your hands, Holy One, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name above all names, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Communion Hymn

"The Lord's Prayer"

(sung by all)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory; now and forever. Amen."

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Offertory

"Be Thou My Vision"

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

Provider God, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and wider world. Accept these gifts, as a testimony of your goodness in the lives of all of us.

All: Amen.

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.

All: 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

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Hymnal #76

****Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

May the love of God surround you, the peace of Jesus Christ engulf you, and the Holy Spirit accompany you, as you go forth into the World, to love and serve all God's people.

All: Amen

Postlude

"Deep Peace"

John Rutter

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., 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
- Thursday:** Handbell Choir at CRR 3:30 pm
- Friday:** Edge at 10:15 Hybrid

This Week:

- Monday: GAME ON!!! 1-3 pm Painted Cliff's Hall
- Monday: Community Supper Set Up 2:30 at St. Andrews
- Tuesday: Growth and Outreach 9:30 am
- Wednesday: Property Management 9 am

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

Sue Buffum, Liturgist

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INTERNET: www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

EMAIL: receptionist@churchoftheredrocks.com

Current Office Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 9AM- 5PM, Friday 9AM - 1PM

*additional hours on Saturday and/or Sunday (as needed)

Pastoral Counseling by appointment please call the office