

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 15, 2023 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost - Year A

9:30AM

“Filled from the Streets”

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:

“There’s something about arriving in new cities, wandering empty streets with no destination. I will never lose the love for the arriving, but I’m born to leave.” — Charlotte Eriksson

Gathering for Worship

Prelude *“Jesus Loves Me” (Based on ‘Clair de Lune’)* arr. Fred Bock

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 *“Great Is Your Faithfulness”* Hymnal #423

Handbell Choir *“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”* arr. Jason W. Krug
Logan Willson, conductor

Call to Worship (*Adapted from Psalm 106*) Judith Glenn

One: Let's thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God's praise?

All: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

Invocation Judith Glenn

One: Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this sacred space to celebrate your goodness and presence in our time together. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us this day. Amen!

Prayer of Confession Judith Glenn

One: Forgive us, O Lord, for not being truthful in acknowledging that we have failed you and those you entrusted in our care.

All: We know we have fallen short of your expectations. Open our hearts and make us receptive to your Holy Spirit.

One: Transform our hearts, Dear God, and renew within us a commitment to be the beloved community you are calling us to be.

A Moment of Silence...

(Each person may use this time to privately surrender to God anything weighing heavily upon your heart.)

ALL: Hear our prayers for forgiveness, O Lord, that we may know your mercy and compassion. Amen!

Words of Grace *(Based on Romans 5:8)*

Pastor Morgan

God demonstrated his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Beloved in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Exodus 32:1-14

Judith Glenn

Meditation Hymn

"Have Thine Own Way"

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Morgan

Message

Learning Unexpected Lessons

Pastor Morgan

Handbell Choir

"10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord)

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman

arr. Peggy Bettcher

Prayers for the People

Pastor Morgan

Anthem

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

arr. Timothy Evans

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Gratitude Moment

Manzanita Outreach

Ben Burke

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Morgan

Offertory

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

arr. Jack Schrader

Hymnal #492

***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**

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

Sending Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

Hymnal #547

***Blessing**

Pastor Morgan

May the Love of the Creator sustain you! May the peace of Jesus flow through you! May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you with grace! And give you the courage to share the good news! Amen!

All: Amen

Postlude

"Because He Lives"

William Gaither

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: Pastoral Search Committee 2PM
Thursday: Handbell Choir at CRR 3:30 pm
Friday: Edge at 10:15 Hybrid

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
NAU Choral Interns

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist
CRR Choir

Judith Glenn, 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 - 3PM

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

Pastoral Counseling by appointment. Please call the office.

Be Sure to Join Us Today



Dave and Lynda Shephard are headed north ... brr!!! ... to be closer to family.
And the Knitting Group wants to send them forth with a bit of Church of the Red Rocks Hospitality.
Please plan to stay for a ***Time of Blessing and Godspeed after worship today.***

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Please pray for the PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has begun meeting to begin to shape the Church Profile and Candidate Profile as we prepare to post our opening for a new settled pastor.

The names of those who will serve on the combined Transition Team and Search Committee are: Karen Barrow, Lawrence Byrd, A.J. Cook, Sara Crosby-Hartman, Margaret Gramley, Sara Johnson, Bob Johnson, Gene Moore, Betty Morgan, Michael Redhawk, Pam Stabenfeldt, Wendell Ver Ploeg. Rev. Marvin Morgan will do the initial training and be available for process questions while he remains as Interim Pastor.

Once the Profiles are ready, Bob Johnson, Betty Morgan and Michael Redhawk will “retire” from this work and the remaining folk will become the Pastoral Search Committee and will review profiles and interview candidates