

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.

November 12, 2023 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost - Year A

9:30AM

*"Wisdom"*

**\*STEWARSHIP/COMMITMENT SUNDAY\***

**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:

*"Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom.  
Mastering others is strength; mastering yourself is true power." — Lao Tzu*  
*"Angry people are not always wise." — Jane Austen*  
*"Turn your wounds into wisdom." — Oprah Winfrey*

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

*"Meditation" from Thais*

Julius Massanet

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

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

Hymnal #425

Handbell Choir

*"Song of Hope"*

Cynthia Dobrinski

**Call to Worship** (*Inspired by Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16*) Leonard Barrow U.S.M.C. 1966--1970 Vietnam

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We hear your Still Speaking voice. We come to you, Wisdom, seeking knowledge and understanding.**

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We remember your marvelous acts and faithful instruction. We come to you, Wisdom, as you have been near to us!**

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We trust in your guidance and place our hope in you through feast and famine. We come to you, Wisdom, to worship and to serve.**

Invocation

Leonard Barrow U.S.M.C. 1966--1970 Vietnam

One: Let us pray.

**All: Wisdom, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this**

moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray. Amen.

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

Leonard Barrow U.S.M.C. 1966--1970 Vietnam

**All: Wise God, we often seek counsel from so many sources while ignoring your guidance. Help us to navigate the tough choices we must make and to discern the circumstances of our world and our lives through your perspective. Your way is life and embodies care, compassion, and concern for all creation. May we follow your model for the flourishing of our brothers and sisters, and our home, the Earth you have entrusted to us. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

Pastor Morgan

Beloved, God gives good instruction and the grace to begin anew. You are empowered by God to choose the path of life everlasting and nudged by God when your journey strays. Know that every movement toward God is received with gladness and the full and welcoming embrace of the one Holy God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*Listening for Our Still -Speaking God*

**A Reading from the Hebrew Bible** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Dennis Matheson U.S.M.C. 1958--1961

**A Reading from the Gospels** Matthew 25: 1-13 Pastor Morgan

**Message** *"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Ready"* Pastor Morgan

**Handbell Choir** *"Open My Eyes"* arr. Karen Thompson

**Prayers for the People** Pastor Morgan

*Responding with Prayer and Generosity*

**Choir Anthem** *"What Should I Offer My God"* Lloyd Larson

**Invitation to Generosity & Commitment** Pastor Morgan

**Offertory and Doxology** *"Give Thanks"* Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy one

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."

let the poor say "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)

Give thanks, Give thanks.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Morgan

Discerning God, receive our offerings and gifts for your kingdom. Let them be a blessing to those in need of encouragement, material goods, and evidence of your presence among us. Magnify them beyond our imagining and grant us insight into the possibilities before us for ministry and witness. We are thankful for the opportunity to give. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

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

**Sending Hymn** *"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"* Hymnal #393

**\*\*Blessing** Pastor Morgan

May Wisdom give you knowledge and peace beyond understanding. May Wisdom reveal the way to reach the unreachable. May Wisdom pour her love upon you with generous abandon and inspire and empower you to do the same as you move throughout this wonderful world.

**Postlude** *"Tribute"* Andrae Crouch

***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.*

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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 CRR 1PM
- Tuesday:** Bible study at Sedona Winds, library 11 AM
- Thursday:** Adult Bible Study at CRR 12:30PM
- Thursday:** Pastoral Search Committee 2PM
- Thursday:** Handbell Choir at CRR 3:30 pm
- Friday:** Yin Yoga at 9am
- Edge at 10:15 Hybrid

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**THE CHURCH of the RED ROCKS UCC**

*An Open and Affirming / Stephen Ministry Congregation*

The Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor [[PastorMorgan@churchoftheredrocks.com](mailto: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

Dennis Matheson, Liturgist  
Leonard Barrow, Liturgist

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**Current Office Hours**

Tuesday – Friday: 9AM - 3PM

\*Additional hours on Saturday and/or Sunday (as needed)  
Pastoral Counseling by appointment. Please call the office.

## **GET READY!**

Our SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH is today after the service. It's a time to gather in friendship and share a meal. Did you bring a MAIN DISH... SIDE DISH... SALAD or a DESSERT that will serve eight (8)? CCM will grill up burgers and hot dogs. Beverages, plates, utensils and napkins will be provided.

### **Yin Yoga**

Robert Johnson is again leading Yin Yoga class for anyone who wants to join. It meets every Friday from 9 to 10:30 am in Painted Cliffs Hall.

There is no charge.

Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat, if you have one.

**REMINDER:** There will not be a class on Friday, Nov. 24 after Thanksgiving.

### **GAME ON**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month \*1 pm – 3 pm\*

Next encounter: Dec. 4

Come and have lots of fun! Pegs & Joker, Mahjong and Hand & Foot will be set up.

Other choices of games can be played. Bring your own beverage and a friend.

Contact Maureen Zdimal ([mfzgowest@gmail.com](mailto:mfzgowest@gmail.com)) or Bonnie McKeon ([sdmama@msn.com](mailto:sdmama@msn.com)) if you have any questions.

**“Everyone is Welcome for All Events”**

**Thanks to everyone who attended and those who worked to make yesterday's event, Women of Courage, a success.**