

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 19, 2023 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost - Year A**

**9:30AM**

**“Investment”**

**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:

November is officially designated as **National Native American Heritage Month**.

*It celebrates the traditions, language and stories of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Hawaii Natives and Puerto Rico Natives.*

*President George H. W. Bush approved a resolution designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month” in 1990. Proclamations under similar names have been issued each year since 1994.*

*President Joe Biden made his proclamation on Oct. 31 and stated “We recognize the invaluable contributions of Native people that have shaped our country and honor the hundreds of Tribal Nations.” – By Luis Fieldman (Read more at: [lfieldman@masslive.com](mailto:lfieldman@masslive.com))*

*“We have different forms assigned to us in the school of life, different gifts imparted. All is not attractive that is good. Iron is useful, though it does not sparkle like the diamond. Gold has not the fragrance of a flower. So different persons have various modes of excellence, and we must have an eye to all.” – William Wilberforce*

*“If you invest nothing, the reward is worth little.” – Richelle E. Goodrich*

Gathering for Worship

**Prelude**

*“Earth and All Stars”*

*David Angerman*

**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**

*“De Colores”*

*Hymnal #402*

**Call to Worship** (*Inspired by Psalm 90*)

*Gene Moore*

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us. .

**All: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

**All: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

**All: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

**Invocation**

*Gene Moore*

One: Let us pray.

**All: Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.**

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

Gene Moore

One: Let us pray

**All: Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

Pastor Morgan

Friends, God is merciful and journeys with us as we navigate uncertain terrain. God is still at work in us and through us that we might have flourished and abundant lives in community with one another. Receive the grace God grants to begin anew when our journey stalls or diverts from the path of the kingdom. That grace is yours.

*Listening for Our Still -Speaking God*

**A Reading from the Gospels**

Matthew 25:14-30 NRSV

Pastor Morgan

Matthew 25:14-30 First Nations Version

Gene Moore

**Meditation Hymn**

*"Ree's Prayer"*

Ree Hudson

**Introduction of Guest Speaker**

Rev. Gary Wagner

**Message "About the Yavapai-Apache Nation"**

Rev. Larry Jackson (Pastor Larry)

Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Clarksdale, AZ and A Member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation

**Anthem**

*"Native American Prayer"*

*by Nolan Schmit*

*Responding with Prayer and Generosity*

**Gratitude Moment**

HOPE HOUSE

Holly Johnson and Sara Crosby-Hartman

**Invitation to Generosity**

Pastor Morgan

**Offertory**

*"In Christ There is No East or West"*

Harry Burleigh

**\*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

One: Let us pray.

**All: Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.**

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

<b>Sending Hymn</b>	<i>"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"</i>	Hymnal #565
<b>*A Native American Benediction</b>		<b>Pastor Larry</b>
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>"De Colores"</i>	arr. Alfredo Morales

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

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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 at CRR 1PM  
**Tuesday:** Bible study at Sedona Winds, in the library 11 AM  
**Thursday:** Adult Bible Study at CRR 12:30 PM  
**Thursday:** Pastoral Search Committee 2PM  
**Thursday:** Handbell Choir at CRR 3:30 pm  
**Friday:** No Yoga  
Edge at 10:15 Hybrid  
Office Closed

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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]

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

Gene Moore, Liturgist

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EMAIL: [receptionist@churchoftheredrocks.com](mailto: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.

**LET'S GET READY**



### *Greening of the church*

Is happening on Saturday, December 2 at 9 am. All are welcome to come together and make Christmas joy happen! There is no Sign-up Sheet.

### *Yin Yoga*

Will resume next Friday, December 1 from 9 am to 10:30 am.

### *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.

### A Scripture for Thanksgiving

Psalm 147:

7-9 (MEV)

***Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving;  
sing praise upon the harp unto our God:  
who covers the heaven with clouds,  
who provides rain for the earth,  
who makes grass to grow upon the mountains.  
He gives food to the animals  
and to the young ravens that chirp.***

May the Lord bless you with a bountiful Thanksgiving full of delicious food and all the Joy your heart can contain.

