

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 26, 2023 – Reign of Christ Sunday - Year A

9:30 AM

“Care”

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:

“Value life in whatever house it dwells. For when it comes time that we are all stripped to bare bones before the divine and facing eternity, we will understand that the only law we were meant to follow, was to love ourselves and each other. Nothing more...nothing less.” — Carla Jo Masterson

“I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do.” — Jana Stanfield

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“Thanks Be To God”

arr. Hal Hopson

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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Hymnal #419

Call to Worship

(Inspired by Psalm 100)

Jim Rostedt

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with gladness and singing!

All: God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God's name.

One: Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

All: God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.

One: Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

All: God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God's name!

Invocation

Jim Rostedt

One: Let us pray.

All: God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy God, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. Amen.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Jim Rostedt

One: Please join me in the Prayer of Transformation.

All: Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kingdom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.

Words of Grace

Pastor Morgan

Beloved, you are loved unconditionally by the Everlasting God. The kingdom is yours to embrace and enter with full citizenship. Know that every move toward God transforms you. Every confession of God's sovereignty fortifies you. Every moment in the presence of God restores you.

Listening for Our Still -Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Kathy Rostedt
A Reading from the Gospels	Matthew 25:31-46 NRSV	Pastor Morgan
Message	<i>Words of Encouragement</i>	Pastor Morgan
Anthem	<i>"A Thanksgiving Prayer"</i>	Lloyd Larson

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Invitation to Generosity		Pastor Morgan
Offertory	<i>"How Can I Say Thanks"</i>	Andraé Crouch
*Doxology	<i>"Give Thanks"</i>	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) Give thanks, Give thanks.		

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Morgan
One: Let us pray.
All: Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kingdom. Amen.

A LITURGY OF FAREWELL – Church of the Red Rocks UCC & Interim Pastor, Marvin L. Morgan
"God be With You" and "Blest be the Tie that Binds" M. L. Morgan, Harmonicist

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

Sending Hymn	<i>"Great Is Your Faithfulness"</i>	Hymnal #423
*Benediction		Pastor Morgan
As we go, may we recognize God in the stranger. May we extend hospitality and care to our neighbors. And may we trust in the reign of God forever. Amen.		
Postlude	<i>"Nun Danket"</i>	Anthony Giamanco

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

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"

Words of Gratitude

On behalf of the Congregation, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor, for his pastoral leadership at The Church of the Red Rocks. His messages have been challenging, comforting, and inspiring and he helped us see ourselves with a new perspective. We appreciate his commitment to assisting us with the transition processes, pastoral care, and mission! We appreciate the sacrifices he has made to be with us, thousands of miles from his home and family. We have been blessed because he walked with us as we sought God's Calling for The Church of the Red Rocks.

“May the Lord watch between you and us, when we apart from one another.”
Genesis 31:49 (MEV)

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 2 pm
Thursday: Handbell Choir at CRR 3:30 pm
Friday: Yin Yoga at 9 am
Edge at 10:15 am 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

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

Jim Rostedt, Liturgist

Kathy Rostedt, 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.

What's Happening ...

Special Fellowship Coffee Time

Join us today as we say farewell to Pr. Marvin.
Hosted by Pam Stabenfeldt and Margaret Gramley.



Greening of the church

It is happening this Saturday, December 2 at 9 am. There will be coffee, hot chocolate, donuts and cinnamon rolls for the volunteers. All are welcome to come together and make Christmas joy happen! There is no Sign-up Sheet.

Yin Yoga

It resumes this Friday, December 1 from 9 to 10:30 am.

The EDGE

The EDGE has a new book: **Walter Brueggemann's Prophetic Imagination: A Theological Biography** by Conrad Kanagy. This new reading starts this Friday, December 1 at 10:15 am, and it's a great time to join the conversation. The book can be purchased on Amazon.

GAME ON

Every 1st Monday of the month *1 – 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) or Bonnie McKeon (sdmama@msn.com) if you have any questions.

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

A special Congregational meeting is to be held **December 10, 2023**, after the worship service. This meeting is being called to vote on the recommendation of your Church Council, Finance, Endowment and Administration Ministry, per a request from the Faith in Action Committee to give \$25,000 to Hope House and \$25,000 to Lago Gardens from the Employee Retention Credit money that Church of the Red Rocks received earlier this year. We encourage you to join us in Painted Cliffs Hall around the tables for discussion and the vote.