

The Church of the Red Rocks
United Church of Christ
A Stephen Ministry & Open and Affirming Faith Community
Through Christian Worship, Education and Mission
we share and celebrate Faith in God with all.

January 7, 2024 — Epiphany Sunday with Communion

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: The story of wise men... or kings... or astrologers is captivating. Discovering a new guiding light; encountering a treacherous leader; experiencing a genuine God-moment; a tricky change of plans and transformed lives: Pondering their journey gives us a chance to consider our own. When was your last unexpected God-moment?

Gathering for Worship

Prelude “We Three Kings” arr. Carolyn Taylor
(in the setting of “Fur Elise”)

Greeting & Welcome Pastor Len Silvester

One: Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey...

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

Call to Worship (from Psalm 71) Dale Pearson

One: May the world’s sovereigns

All: Praise God all the angels, all the heavenly host!

One: Praise God, you sun and moon and all the stars!

All: Let the whole of creation praise its Creator!

Opening Prayer (together) Dale Pearson

All: Light of life, Word of God in the flesh, born into the human pain and joy that we know: You gave us power to be your people, but we have too often clung to our own ways. We have failed to see you in the people around us, and we have too often joined the chorus of despair. Help us rise and shine as a beacon of hope, justice and healing... (...a time of silence...)

*Hymn No. 159 “As With Gladness Those of Old”

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 60:1-6 Dale Pearson

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 Pastor Len

[seated] **Hymn No. 153** “Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

Meditation Time to Rise...and Shine Pastor Len

Anthem “Lift Your Light” Mary MacDonald

Responding with Welcoming, Prayer and Generosity

Reception of New Members Sharon Canipe, Steve Canipe, Kate Hill

Covenant of CRRUCC (together): **We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made**

known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the United Church of Christ and The Church of the Red Rocks to proclaim the Gospel to all, exalting the worship of the One True God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, the preservation and protection of the earth, and the realization of humankind. Depending, as did our forebears, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

A Time of Prayer

Response (sung by all) Chorus of "We Three Kings"

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to your perfect light.**

A Time of Generosity

Invitation

Offering of Music "We Three Kings" J.H.Hopkins

*Doxology, No. 524 "This Little Light of Mine" vs. 1

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (twice more)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)

**We, like the Magi, come with gifts—offered in faith and praise.
Bless us and these gifts that both may prosper in the ways
that you will show us.**

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Len

Prayer of Consecration (together)

Holy God, we are in awe of the splendor of your whole creation. We give thanks for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Send your Spirit upon us, and these gifts of grain and grapes, that in this sacrament we may recognize Christ's living presence, and that together we may be Christ's eyes, hands and feet in the world you love. May we and those we serve know the blessings of living in worldwide communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

"The Lord's Prayer" (sung together)

Albert Mallotte

The Words of Institution (responsively)

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."**

PASTOR: Great is the mystery of Faith.

ALL: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Your row will be invited forward by the ushers to receive the elements as a medley of hymns is played. Feel free to sing or hum along.

Thanksgiving

Pastor Len: May God—Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit,
keep and preserve us to everlasting life.

**All: We have been fed, O God, by your presence and led by your light. May we walk in Christ's Way now and forever:
Amen.**

Departing to Serve

*Blessing		Pastor Len
*Benediction	"A Choral Benediction"	Don Besig
Postlude	"Arise, Your Light Is Come"	Ruth Duck

When our worship is over, our service begins.

Welcome! A special welcome goes to our guests and visitors.

We hope you have felt at home and have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. Please join us in Painted Cliffs Hall following the service for refreshments and conversation.

The annual meeting of the members and associate members of the Church of the Red Rocks will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 21, immediately following worship. *Your vote truly matters!*

The Church of the Red Rocks UCC

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CRR Choir

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music
NAU Choral Interns