

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.

February 4, 2024 — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany with Communion

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: Our culture celebrates action, results, and instant gratification. Relentless and highly sophisticated advertising convinces us that we deserve to have whatever we want *now*. As a result, Henri Nouwen observed, waiting is an awful desert between where we are and where we want to be.

Gathering for Worship

- Prelude** “On Eagle’s Wings” arr. Douglas Wagner
- Greeting & Welcome** Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt
- One: Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey...
- All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**
- Call to Worship** (from Psalm 71) Marcia Byrd
- One: We gather to worship God,
whose creative imagination never fails:
- All: For the sake of God, we will search for the outcasts.**
- One: We gather to praise our God,
whose steadfast love never weakens:
- All: For the sake of Jesus, we will lift up all who have fallen!**
- One: We gather to offer our best to God,
who walks with us from now through eternity:
- All: For the sake of the Holy Spirit, we will walk with the weary...**
- Opening Prayer:** *Dear One* by Jim Burklo used with permission Marcia Byrd
- One: Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.
- All: May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the seemingly base
and common processes of the earth.**
- One: Give us what we need, day by day,
to keep body and soul together, because
clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.
- All: We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.**
- One: We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.
- All: Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is. Amen.**

*Hymn No. 11

“Bring Many Names”

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 40:27-31 Marcia Byrd

***Gospel Reading** Mark 1:29-39 Rev. Stabenfeldt

[seated] **Hymn No. 591** “This Is My Song”

Meditation You Lift Me Up Rev. Stabenfeldt

Anthem “You Raise Me Up” arr. Teena Chinn

Responding with Welcoming, Prayer and Generosity

A Time of Prayer

Response (sung by all) No. 775

And God will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

A Time of Generosity

Invitation

Offering of Music “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” arr. Jack Schrader

*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)

God of many Names, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Empower us with a Christ-like presence to bring healing to all wounds, make whole what is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness. As your agents for goodness and grace, we offer You our lives and these tithes and offerings. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation Rev. Stabenfeldt & Rev. Gramley

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 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.**

Lord's Prayer (together) Maori and Polynesia

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

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.

Thanksgiving

PASTOR: 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

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| *Blessing | | Rev. Stabenfeldt |
| *Choral Benediction | "A Choral Benediction" | Don Besig |
| Postlude | "Arise, My Soul, Arise" | Penny Rodriguez |

When our worship is over, our service begins.

We go out to serve the world that God loves.

Thanks to David Stabenfeldt for leading this service today while Pastor Len is away. Next Sunday our guest will be Rev. Rich Smith from Tucson...whose connection to CRR goes back to pastor Alice Snow.

What's Going On Here?

TODAY (Feb. 4) Epiphany Sunday

9:30am **Worship** – with **communion**

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

MONDAY (Feb. 5) Office closed

9:30am KRTA Meeting

1:00pm Knitting Into the Mystery

4:30pm Sedona Community Meal @ St. Andrew's Episcopal Church hosted by CRR

TUESDAY (Feb. 6) Office open 9am-3pm

11:00am Bible Study at Sedona Winds

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 7) Office open 9am-3pm

8:00am Property Management Ministry Meeting

5:00pm Barbershop Singers

THURSDAY (Feb. 8) Office open 9am-3pm

Next **Canyon Echo** is e-mailed... do we have your email address?

9:30am Stephen's Ministry

11:00am Bible Study at CRR

2:00pm Pastoral Search Committee

3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (Feb. 9) Office open 9am-3m

9:00am Yin Yoga in Painted Cliffs Hall

10:15am The EDGE Study/Discussion Group via Zoom

NEXT SUNDAY (Feb. 11)

9:30am Worship service – Rev. Rich Smith, guest

10:30am **Second Sunday Potluck Brunch in PCH**

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The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus