

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 25, 2024 — Second Sunday in Lent

2024 Theme: 'Turn, Turn, Turn'

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: A satirical writer noted that some people prefer the “free pew plan” – a low-demand, ‘it’s all about me’ version of Christianity. Today’s theme confronts us: Where have you found the greatest challenges as you have chosen to follow Jesus in your everyday living?

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“*Claire de Lune*”

Claude Debussy

Greeting & Welcome

Rev. Dr. Margaret Gramley

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

All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

***Hymn of Gathering** No. 459 “*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”

Call to Worship (from Psalm 22)

A. J. Cook

One: You who are in awe of God, let your praise be released!

All: God does not abandon the helpless in their distress.

One: When your people gather, you fill us with songs of praise!

All: We are your thankful, hopeful people!

Opening Prayer

A. J. Cook

All: God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross, Jesus embraced the power of death, and broke its hold over your people. In this season of turning, draw us more closely to yourself, that we who follow Jesus may turn away from any deeds of death, and turn toward your ways of life.

.... (...a time of silence...)

Response chorus from “*Simple Gifts*”
**When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we sha’nt be ashamed,
To turn, turn, will be our delight,
‘Til by turning, turning, we come ‘round right.**

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 17:1-7 A. J. Cook

***Gospel Reading** Mark 8:31-37 Pastor Len (in Paris)
(seated) **Hymn No. 191** “*Before Your Cross, O Jesus*”

Message Laying Down Some Life Pastor Len (in Paris)

Anthem “*The Time for Turning*” Craig Courtney

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

A Time of Prayer Rev. Gramley
Response (sung by all) No. 393 “*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*” v. 2

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers,
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.**

A Time of Generosity

Moment of Gratitude: Stephen Ministers Sally Phillips

Offertory “*Arabesque*” Claude Debussy

***Doxology, No. 780**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)**

**We offer these gifts as our grateful “yes!” to your call
to serve others through this family of faith. Amen!**

Departing to Serve

***Hymn of Service** No. 207 “*Just As I Am*”

***Blessing**

Rev. Gramley

***Benediction**

“*Forth in the Name of Christ*”

Hal Hopson

Postlud

“*Tribute*”

Andraé Crouch

When our worship is over, our service begins.

We go to serve the world that God loves.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshiping with us this morning, and please stay for refreshments and conversation in Painted Cliffs Hall. Questions? Just ask us!

The **Church Council Mini-Retreat** is this Wednesday from 11:30am to 3:30pm in Painted Cliffs Hall. It is important that each ministry be represented as we move into an exciting, important year in the life of our church!

Pastor Len returns to Arizona on Friday and will be with us in person next Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has pitched in this month!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering March 10: This ecumenical offering dates back to reconstruction efforts in Europe following WWII. The mission now includes relief work around the world. One hundred cents of every dollar you give goes directly to helping those in the greatest need—all overhead is covered by the participating denominations.

Can We Go Green Among the Red Rocks? We invite you and your friends to join us for this event on Sunday, March 10 at 3 pm in Painted Cliffs Hall. The speaker is rev. Dr. Jim Antal, author and activist for “Climate Justice” since 1988. Area churches and concerned organizations will also be attending.

What's Going On Here?

PCH = Painted Cliffs Hall

TODAY (Feb. 25)

9:30am **Worship** – Pastor Len “Zooms” in from Paris!

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

MONDAY (Feb. 26) Office closed

1:00pm Knitting Into the Mystery

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

TUESDAY (Feb. 27) Office open 9am-3pm

11:00am Bible Study at Sedona Winds – in person and via Zoom

12:30pm PEO Meeting in PCH

3:00pm How to Talk About Race Series in PCH

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 28) Office open 9am-3pm

11:30am **Church Council Retreat** in PCH

5:00pm Barbershop Singers

THURSDAY (Feb. 29) Office open 9am-3pm

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

11:00am Bible Study at CRR

1:00pm Pastoral Search Committee

3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal in PCH

FRIDAY (Mar. 1) Office open 9am-3pm

9:00am Yin Yoga in PCH

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

SATURDAY (Mar. 2)

NEXT SUNDAY (Mar. 3)

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

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

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