

# 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.

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March 24, 2024 — Palm/Passion Sunday

2024 Lenten Theme: 'Turn, Turn, Turn'

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\*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

**TO PONDER AS WE GATHER:** The fickleness of human nature is shown in so many different ways, and sits at the heart of the events of what we call holy week. Where have you found your loyalties and commitments wavering?

### Gathering for Worship

**Prelude**

"Spring" from Four Seasons

A. Vivaldi

**Greeting & Welcome -- Introduction**

Pastor Len Silvester

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

**All: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

**Passion Story – Palms Sunday** (Mark 11:1-11)

Kate Hill, Narrator

Narr: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them:

Jesus: Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."

Narr: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them:

**#1: What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?**

Narr: They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their

cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Those who went on ahead and those who followed were shouting:

**All:** (*waving palms*) **“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

Narr: Then he entered Jerusalem and went to the temple, looking around at everything. Since it was late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. **Silence**

**Opening Prayer** (together)

Kate Hill

God of mercy, as we enter this holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only shout ‘Hosanna!’ with our lips, but may follow him in the way of service and sacrifice. (*...a time of silence...*)

\*Hymn No. 216      “*All Glory, Laud and Honor*”

### Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

**Passion Story – Monday** (Mark 11:15-19)

Narr: The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Again, he entered the temple. He began to drive out those who were selling and buying there. He threw over the tables of the moneychangers and those who sold doves sacrifices. He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. Meanwhile, he was teaching and saying:

Jesus: Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”? But you have made it a den of thieves!

Narr: And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to be rid of him; for they were afraid because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. **Silence**

**Anthem**

“*One the Road to Jerusalem*”

Joseph Martin

**Homily**

Two Parades

Pastor Len

\*Hymn No. 213      “*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*”

**Passion Story – Tuesday Morning** (Mark 11 – selected verses)

Narr: In the morning, Jesus said:

Jesus: Have faith in God. Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins.

Narr: Once again, they went to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said:

**#2: By what authority are you doing these things?**

Jesus: I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: Now, did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.

Narr: They began arguing with one another.

**#1: If we say, “from heaven,” he will say, “Why then didn’t you believe him?”**

**#2: But surely, we cannot say “of human origin”!**

Narr: They were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So, this is how they answered Jesus:

**All: Uh...we do not know!**

Jesus: Then neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. Silence

## Responding with Prayer and Generosity

### A Time of Prayer

Pastor Len

Response (sung by all) No. 775

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s 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

Gratitude Moment: Property Management

Bob Wych

**Passion Story – Wednesday Morning** (Mark 11 – selected verses)

Narr: He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd donating to the treasury. Many people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, together worth a penny. Then he called his disciples:

Jesus: Truly I tell, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.

Offertory                    *"I Don't Know How to Love Him"*                    A. L. Webber

\*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)

**With these gifts we join the Christ-parade of peace,  
justice, and abiding hope. May they do more than we  
can imagine to make life better for all.**

### Departing to Serve

\*Hymn of Service No. 215    *"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"*

**Passion Story – Wednesday** (Mark 12 – selected verses)

Narr: Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him:

**#2: Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and defer to no one; you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the true way of God. So...is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?**

Jesus: Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a coin and let me see it. Whose head is on the coin, and whose title? Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's—and to God the things that are God's.

Narr: And they were utterly amazed at him. One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, they asked him;

**#1: Which commandment is the most important of all?**

Jesus: The first is, "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all you mind, and with all your  
[continues on insert....]

strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

## **#2: You are right, Teacher!**

Jesus: And you are not far from the kingdom of God.

Narr: After that no one dared to ask him any more questions. The Pharisees withdrew from him and waited for a more opportune time to carry out their plans. **Silence**

## **\*Chimes**

*There will be thirty chimes, symbolic of the years of Jesus' earthly life. You are invited to remain seated for meditation – and to depart when you are ready. The service resumes in Painted Cliffs Hall on Thursday at 5 p.m.*

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***When our worship is over, our service begins.***

***We go to serve the world that God loves.***

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**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!

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** Offering is still being received—there are envelopes in the pews. This ecumenical offering helps so many...please be generous!

## **Coming up this week...**

Maundy Thursday: March 28 at 5 p.m. Soup and bread supper with ‘tenebrae’ communion service in PCH.

Easter Sunday: March 31– Invite your friends!

**Outdoor sunrise service** at 6:30 a.m.

**Pancake breakfast** in PCH at 7:15 a.m.

**Easter worship** with choir, bells, and brass at 9:30 a.m.

## **Upcoming Sundays:**

April 7 – Our guest will be the Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins, Conference Minister for the UCC Southwest Conference.

April 14 at 2p.m. For our annual **Gospel hymn-sing**, we'll be joined by our Choir-in-Residence, the Sedona Area Chamber Singers.

## What's Going On Here?

PCH = Painted Cliffs Hall

### **Palm/Passion SUNDAY** (March 24)

9:30am Worship

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

### **MONDAY** (March 25) Office closed

9:30am Knitting Into the Mystery

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

### **TUESDAY** (March 26) Office open 9am-3pm

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

12:30pm PEO Meeting Chapter CM in PCH

3:00pm How to Talk About Race Series in PCH (6 of 6)

### **WEDNESDAY** (March 27) Office open 9am-3pm

5:00pm Barbershop Singers

### **Maunder THURSDAY** (March 28) Office open 9am-3pm

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

9:30am Stephen Ministry Meeting

11:00am Bible Study in Conference Room

1:00pm Pastoral Search Committee

3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:00pm **Soup supper with 'Tenebrae' communion in PCH**

### **Good FRIDAY** (March 29) Office open 9am-3pm

9:00am Yin Yoga in Painted Cliffs Hall

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

### **SATURDAY** (March 30)

### **Easter SUNDAY** (March 31)

6:30am **Sunrise Service** with communion (outside)

7:15am **Pancake breakfast** in PCH

9:30am Easter worship service

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

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## **The Church of the Red Rocks UCC**

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NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus