

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.

April 21, 2024 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Question Box Sunday

2024 Eastertide Theme: 'Our Raisin' Brand'

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: The Apostle Thomas has a bad reputation for his skepticism about the Jesus' resurrection. Are doubts and questions harmful ... or are they, in fact, essential as we find our way into God's light and life? Today we'll consider some of *your* profound questions.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

"You Raise Me Up"

arr. Dan Coates

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 23, adapted

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall lack nothing we need.

**God's restores our souls, and God leads us toward
what is right.**

Even in the darkest valley, we will not be afraid. Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Gene Moore

We are grateful for our active minds, even as they are filled with questions and doubts. Turn us away from seeking a faith which has all the answers; open our spirits continually to the mystery and majesty of your

created order—even when we cannot fully see or understand. Together we seek to follow the Risen One and with him to bring new life to others. (...silence...)

***Gathering Hymn** No. 230 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

From the Christian Scriptures Acts 4:32-35 Gene Moore

***Gospel Reading** John 20:19-31 Pastor Len

CRR Handbell Choir “The Church’s One Foundation”
arr. Kevin McChesney

Message From the Question Box Pastor Len

CRR Sanctuary Choir “Were You There?” arr. Robert Lau

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Reception of New Members Dave Norton

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 Pastor Len

[seated] **Hymn** No. 49 “Ask Me What Great Thing I Know”

A Time of Generosity

Call to Generosity

Offertory “Eastertide” Various

*Doxology (sung by all) No. 765, v. 1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)

This you have shown us, O God: Generosity begets generosity! May the givers and the recipients know the joy of living in your light and hope.

Departing to Serve

***Hymn of Parting** No. 241 “Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

***Blessing & Sending** Pastor Len

Benediction “Choral Benediction” Don Besig

Postlude “How Great Thou Art” Stewart Hine

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 we hope God’s Spirit has spoken to yours. Please stay for refreshments and conversation in Painted Cliffs Hall.

Next Sunday don’t miss the debut of an original adaptation of the Book of Jonah ... “I HATE It When You Do That!”.

Bible Study underway:

Each week stands alone... so join us Thursday at 11 in person here or via Zoom. The overall topic is “What Paul REALLY Said About Women”! This week’s subject is “Wives and Husbands” ... is Pastor Len asking for trouble with this one??

COMING UP: **Music Appreciation Sunday** May 12:

Hallmark (and the wider culture) labels it as Mother’s Day. At CRR it will also be a day when we celebrate our music ministry... volunteers and staff. The Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers will augment our CRR Chancel Choir, and the CRR Handbell Choir will play. Logan Willson will debut his anthem based on the preaching of Pastor Marvin Morgan.

What's Going On Here?

PCH = Painted Cliffs Hall

TODAY (April 21)

9:30am Worship

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

MONDAY (April 22) **Office closed**

9:30am Knitting Into the Mystery

TUESDAY (April 23) **Office open 9am-3pm**

11:00am Bible Study at Sedona Winds

11:30am PEO Chapter M Meeting

WEDNESDAY (April 24) **Office open 9am-3pm**

1:00pm Church Council (hybrid meeting)

5:00pm Barbershop Singers Rehearsal

THURSDAY (April 25) **Office open 9am-3pm**

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

9:30am Stephen Ministry Meeting

11:00am Bible Study: "What Paul REALLY Said About Women"

Today: Wives and Husbands

1:00pm Pastoral Search Committee

3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (April 26) **Office open 9am-3pm**

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

SATURDAY (April 27)

NEXT SUNDAY (April 28) – Jonah Sunday!

9:30am Worship—with original presentation of *Jonah*

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

The Church of the Red Rocks UCC

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CRR Choir