

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.

May 5, 2024 — Sixth Sunday of Easter
2024 Eastertide Theme: 'Our Raisin' Brand'

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: How do you react when your carefully-laid plans go 'off the rails'? For the dedicated planners among us, that can be distressing. When the Holy Spirit touches an experience, the ensuing 'wind' and 'fire' can feel chaotic. When was the last time that happened to you? How did you handle it?

Gathering for Worship

Prelude *"In Christ There Is No East or West"* Gilbert Martin

Greeting & Welcome Pastor Len Silvester

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

You are welcome here!

Call to Worship (from Psalm 98) Katelyn Mason

O sing to the Lord a new song, for God is ever doing wonders!

God has remembered God's steadfast love.

Break forth into joyous song, and sing praises!

Sing praises with the lyre, the trumpet, and the horn!

***Gathering Hymn** No. 8 *"Praise to the Living God"*

***Prayer for New Life** Katelyn Mason

Creator God, you made the world in beauty, and seek to renew all things in Christ. Where we find your creation disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, stir us as agents of your reign of justice, grace, sacrifice, and peace. Grant us wisdom and courage to boldly go where Christ is leading... [a time of silence]

***Assurance of Grace**

Katelyn Mason

Here is the Good News: In Christ we are given the freedom to say "Yes!" to the invitation to "Come, follow me."

Thanks be to God!

***Alleluia** No. 27, v. 1 adapted:

**From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung!
Come, Holy Spirit, free each tongue!
(higher voices) Alleluia! (lower voices) Alleluia!
(higher) Alleluia! (lower) Alleluia! (ALL) Alleluia!**

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:44-48

Katelyn Mason

Anthem

"God Gives Us Those Who Love Us"

John Carter

Homily

Unexpected Thin Places

Pastor Len

[seated] **Hymn No. 454** *"Lord I Want to Be a Christian"*

Responding with Sacrament and Sacrifice

Affirmation of Baptism: Camille Emas

Lawrence Byrd, sponsor

Response (sung by all) No. 765, v. 1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A Time of Generosity

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Len

Offertory *"There's Something About That Name"*

arr. Fred Bock

*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)

**Use these gifts, we pray, to help 'raise up' others--
and ourselves--to new life and hope.**

Service of Communion

Invitation

Pastor Len

Prayer of Consecration (together)

Holy God, we are in awe of the splendor of your whole creation. We are mindful of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Send your Spirit upon us and these gifts of grain and grape, that in this sacrament we may recognize Christ's living presence. Going from here, may we be Christ's eyes, hands and feet in serving the world you love. May we and those we encounter know the blessings of living in open 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.

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 together, 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 wine, he said:

ALL: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. Whenever you share a cup like this, 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 hymns are 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 Christ's presence and grace. May we live as your people now and forever!

Departing to Serve

***Parting Hymn** No. 391, vs. 1,2,3 *"In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

***Blessing** Pastor Len

***Choral Benediction** *"Forth In the Name of Christ"* arr. H. Hopson

Postlude *"Faith Is the Victory"* arr. David Smithers

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. Questions? Just ask us!

BREAKING NEWS: Pastor Candidate Coming! Plan to be here on the weekend of **May 18-19**. The pastoral search committee is recommending a candidate to be our next settled pastor. The candidate will meet and greet us—and respond to your questions—on Saturday and then lead us in worship and preach on Sunday. Immediately following the service, the congregation will meet to vote on approving a call to the candidate.

Today we celebrate with Camille Emas, baptized as an infant, as she affirms her baptism as a well-seasoned adult!

FREE Concert today at 3 p.m.: We are delighted to host NAU's Shrine of the Ages Choir, in which all of our choral interns sing. Their concert is titled "I'll Be On My Way." Bring your friends!

THURSDAY, May 16 @ 1 p.m.: **A service celebrating the life of Jacqueline Hornberger** will be held here. Everyone is welcome. A light reception will follow in Painted Cliffs Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY: **Music Appreciation Day!** Hallmark (and the wider culture) labels it as Mother's Day. At CRR we also 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. CRR Intern Logan Willson will debut his anthem based on the preaching of our former Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan.

What's Going On Here?

TODAY (May 5)

- 9:30am Worship—Guest: The Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins
- 10:30am Coffee and conversation in Painted Cliffs Hall
- 3:00pm **Free concert:** NAU's Shrine of the Ages Choir

MONDAY (May 6) Office closed

- 12:45am The EDGE Study/Discussion Group via Zoom

TUESDAY (May 7) Office open 9am-3pm

- 11:00am Bible Study at Sedona Winds
- 3:30pm Growth and Outreach Ministry Meeting

WEDNESDAY (May 8) Office open 9am-3pm

- 5:00pm Barbershop Singers

THURSDAY (May 9) 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: What Paul REALLY Said About Women
- 1:00pm Pastoral Search Committee
- 3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (May 10) Office closed this week only

- 9:00am Yin Yoga in Painted Cliffs Hall

SATURDAY (May 11)

NEXT SUNDAY (May 12)

- 9:30am Worship—**Music Appreciation Sunday**/Mother's Day
- 10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

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Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus