

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.

June 2, 2024 — Second Sunday after Pentecost

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER: This week we ponder the story of an old man, Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus seeking answers to life's questions only to be told that he must be "born from above," or as the popular phrase has it, "born again," which understandably confused him. It's worth noting that this is the only time Jesus is reported to have given that prescription, as he said other things to other seekers. But the idea of "being born again" has persisted in the religious imagination, especially in our country. Has it ever happened to you? Maybe it wasn't all that dramatic, or anything like what happens at revival meetings. Maybe you called it something else. What was it like? How has it changed your life, enlarged your life, given you a new life, formed you into the person God is calling you to be?

Gathering for Worship

Prelude *"In this Very Room"* arr. Bob Krosstad

Greeting & Welcome Rev. Dr. Margaret Gramley

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

You are welcome here!

Call to Worship Pam Moore

Leader: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

All: "Go from," God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.

Leader: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

All: "Go towards" God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.

Leader: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. "How can this be?" we wonder with Nicodemus. And yet, God's call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

All: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.

***Gathering Hymn** No. 418 "My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff"

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life** Pam Moore

Leader: O God, even though you have shown us a way, we all too often wish to go our own, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey.

All: May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace.

Moment of Reflection

***Assurance of Grace**

Pam Moore

Leader: Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear, and mistakes made. God's unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and who cannot see the way ahead. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength.

All: God has not come to condemn, but to offer healing and new life. Thanks be to God!

***Response No. 760 Sing Amen!**

(Sing Amen!) Amen! We praise your name, O God!

(Sing Amen!) Amen! We praise your name, O God!

(Sing Amen!) Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,

Amen! We praise your name, O God!

Listening for Our Still-Speaking God

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-7

Pam Moore

Anthen

"I Come with Joy"

Brian Wren

Message

Born Again in the Town too Tough to Die

Rev. Smith

Responding with Sacrament and Sacrifice

A Time of Prayer

Rev. Gramley

Response

Refrain No. 581

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth

From despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,

Let peace fill the universe.

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Gramley

Offertory

"Here Am I, Lord"

Dan Schutte

***Doxology** Tune: NCH 17

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia,

Praise God for all that love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit: One.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)**

O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity,

may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and to

wards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and

compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Service of Communion

***Communion Hymn No. 347 "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"**

Invitation

Rev. Smith

Blessing of the Elements

Rev. Smith: We thank you, Holy One, for your mercy is endless. You have filled all creation with light and life, and your glory stretches through the universe. You have called your people to Life, and through Jesus, you call us to celebrate and to love. Your Spirit calls us now, in this place, to join in covenant, in praise and in service.

Rev. Gramley: The bread of our being loved, the wine of our joy, stand as reminders that your love is ever-present. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we gather around this table and remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it and shared it with his friends, saying,

All: "Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you."

Rev. Smith: We remember that he also took and shared the cup of blessing, saying,

All: "This is the Cup of the New Covenant, poured out for you. As often as you drink of it, remember me."

Rev. Smith: We are here to remember, but we also remember and invoke the many other times that Jesus sat at table, with disciples, with friends, with outcasts and sinners, and the countless times since that God's people have gathered at table in his name, and known his presence.

Rev. Gramley: May we come not only in remembrance, but also in celebration of your presence with us now, and full of anticipation and hope for the future that you give, walking in your light and led by your Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Smith: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is ready, and all are welcome.

(see insert)

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

Rev. Gramley

All: We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life of shared memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

Departing to Serve

***Parting Hymn No. 18** *“Guide Me, O my Great Redeemer”*

***Blessing**

Rev. Smith

***Choral Benediction** *“Christ Now Before Us”* arr. Hal Hopson

Postlude *“Reach Out and Touch”* Ron & Charles Brown

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 hope god’s Spirit has spoken to yours.

We Are glad to have Rev. Smith and his wife Pam today and throughout the months of June and July. Let’s give them a warm welcome back.

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH is June 9 after the worship service. “Everyone is Welcomed”

Bring a MAIN DISH.....SIDE DISH...SALAD..... or a DESSERT that WILL SERVE 8 and leave these in the kitchen before the service. CCM will provide the Beverages, Plates, Utensils and Napkins. NO SIGN UP SHEET! Let’s come together in friendship and share a meal.

What's Going On Here?

TODAY (June 2)

9:30am Worship

10:30am Coffee and conversation in Painted Cliffs Hall

MONDAY (June 3) Office closed

12:45pm The EDGE Study/Discussion Group via Zoom

4:30pm Sedona Community Meal @ St. Andrew's Episcopal Church hosted by The Church of the Red Rocks

TUESDAY (June 4) Office open 9am-3pm

11:00am Bible Study at Sedona Winds

WEDNESDAY (June 5) Office open 9am-3pm

5:00pm Barbershop Singers

THURSDAY (June 6) Office open 9am-3pm

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

FRIDAY (June 7) Office open 9am-3pm

9:00am Yin Yoga

SATURDAY (June 8)

NEXT SUNDAY (June 9)

9:30am Worship

10:30am Coffee and conversation in PCH

The Church of the Red Rocks UCC

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The Rev. Rich Smith

Interim/Bridge Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

Pastor-Elect (arriving Sept. 1)

Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus

