

The Church of the Red Rocks ~ United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER:

The message of Advent competes with a consumer economy that prefers we jump to the big finish, instead of slowly preparing for an encounter with the Divine.

~ Book of Ecclesiastical Order

WELCOME

To anyone who is searching, *you are welcome here.*

To anyone in need of a spiritual home, *you are welcome here.*

To anyone longing for the love of God, *you are welcome here.*

Come, stop searching and be part of worship.

PRELUDE

"Picardy"

Gilbert Martin

Suzanne Moore, organ

*** THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Here is the ember of hope:

In a story passed down through the ages...

In a love surpassing all loves...

In a God who sacrifices self...

In the birth of a child, full of light and love...

Came Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel, God among us.

The ember, whose flame will kindle the world.

***THE OPENING HYMN** No. 116

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

(vs 1, 6-7)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9: 2– 3, 6 Marcia Byrd

GIFT OF MUSIC *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* arr. Mark Hayes
Alec Wilkes, piano

GOSPEL READING Luke 21: 25 – 36 Marcia Byrd

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me

SERMON "Hello Darkness, My Old Friend"
Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

ANTHEM *"Prepare!"* (An Advent Communion) Jon Paige

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This table is open to all people. All are welcome. Gluten free bread is available at the front

The Invitation

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

All things come from you, O God.

With gratitude we return to you what is yours.

You created with love and formed us in your image.

All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.

Use us to bring love to this world.

In gratitude for all your gifts, we offer our waking lives.

**Wherever we go, wherever we might be, may your Spirit use us to bring peace to this world.
By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ and with each other,
so we might bring unity to this world,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

*Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (baskets at the back of the church)

***PARTING HYMN** No. 117

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (vs 1-4)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *"Lead Me, Lord"* Samuel S. Wesley

POSTLUDE

"Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying"

J.S. Bach, arr. Reginald Gerig
Alec Wilkes, piano

Visitors, before you leave, visit our welcome table and help us stay in contact with you by filling out the Visitor Contact Card.

OUR MISSION

Through Christian Worship, Education and Mission we share and celebrate Faith in God with all.

What's Going On

For more information about what is happening at the church visit our website or subscribe to the Canyon Echo, our weekly newsletter. Here are a few of things happening this week:

Mon:	12:45pm	<i>The EDGE - Zoom</i>
	2:30pm	<i>Sedona Community Supper at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church hosted by CRR</i>
Tue:	11am	<i>Bible Study at Sedona Winds</i>
Wed:	8:30am	<i>Property Management Ministry Meeting</i>
	10:30am	<i>Bible Study Advent Series Part I at CRR</i>
Thu:	1pm	<i>Bible Study at CRR</i>
	3:30pm	<i>Handbell Choir Rehearsal</i>
Fri:	9am	<i>Yin Yoga</i>
	10:30am	<i>Book Club - <u>"The Lager Queen of Minnesota"</u></i>
Sat:	9am	<i>Greening of the Church</i>

Have questions or comments? Send us an e-mail at:

info@churchoftheredrocks.com

Visit our website at:

www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

Or visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/churchredrocks

You can also walk in or call us

54 Bowstring Drive Sedona, AZ 86336

(928) 282-7963

Office Hours: Tuesdays thru Fridays from 9am to 4pm.

The Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling
Dr. Ryan Holder
Mr. Alec Wilkes
NAU Choral Interns
Mrs. Susanne Moore
The Rev. Dr. George Ault

Settled Pastor
Director of Music
Pianist
CRR Chancel Choir
Musician Emeritus
Pastor Emeritus