

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

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER:

God is coming, always. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you recognize God at any moment of your life.

That is Advent. ~ Henry Nouwen

THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

We are an Open and Affirming church. ONA welcomes not only those who historically have been kept out, it also transforms those who open the door. Come to worship and be church.

Whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* Miller & Jackson

*** THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Next to the ember of hope is the flame of peace...

Burning softly as we wait for the One who'll conquer hate.

The One who is robed in Justice, carrying equity in the heart,

This Advent season, we seek the courage to make peace.

We long for peace among nations. We long for the day when...

**the wolf will walk with the lamb, the soldier with the healer.
Come, Lord Jesus, light a fire in our hearts this day.**

***THE OPENING HYMN No. 122**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

GIFT OF MUSIC *"Lost in the Night"* Cathy Mokelbust
CRR Handbell Choir & Ira Casey, violin

GOSPEL READING Luke 3: 1 – 6 Kathy Rostedt

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 "Removing the Blindfold"
Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

ANTHEM *"Prepare the Way"* Joseph Martin
Ira Casey, violin

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *"Violin Sonata No. 3 in C Major: Allegro Assai"*
J.S. Bach
Ira Casey, violin

DOXOLOGY (sung to the tune of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

***PARTING HYMN** No. 115

"The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore" (vs. 1 & 3)

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

arr. John Carter

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** *The EDGE - Zoom Meeting*
1pm *Game ON!*
3pm *Finance, Endowment & Administration Ministry Meeting*
- Tue: 11am** *Bible Study at Sedona Winds*
- Wed: 10:30am** *Bible Study Advent Series Part II at CRR*
10:30am *Movie Club by SUUF*
- Thu: 9:30am** *Stephen Ministry Meeting*
1pm *Bible Study at CRR*
3:30pm *Handbell Choir Rehearsal*
- Fri: 9am** *Yin Yoga*
- Sat: 5pm** *"Lessons & Carols"*

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. Suzanne Moore
The Rev. Dr. George Ault

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

This is letter 2 out of 4



“ ...the Glory of God
shone around them...
Luke 2:9 ”

Be the Light

Power of Community

Among the many letters and notes the Pension Boards receives from recipients of gifts made possible by contributions to the Christmas Fund were these words:

As a lifelong member of the UCC, I have fond memories of the Annual Christmas Fund. I never thought we would be in a situation where we too would need assistance as medical expenses and caregiving costs increase. We are grateful that Christmas Fund is here to assist us.



*Reverend Christopher Gilmore, Lead Pastor
Sixth Avenue - United Church of Christ in Denver, CO*

Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.

Did you know that Americans owe an estimate \$220 billion dollars in medical debt? Your donation helps UCC members like Chris with unexpected medical expenses.

Visit christmasfund.org to learn more and donate online.



Donate Online Here!