

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

December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

TO PONDER AS WE GATHER:

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be imperfect, and long for something greater to come. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Welcome to worship, to this liturgical season.

It's more than a Christmas season.

It's a time for humanity to make peace.

Come, and be part of the peace.

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

PRELUDE *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J. S. Bach

*** THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Today there is good news for us to proclaim.

The last shall be first and the meek shall inherit the earth.

In the love of God, there shall be peace for all people.

God's mercy and love is more than a promise. It is like cool spring water that is poured out for our parched souls.

Behold! There is compassion for all of God's people.

We believe in the love of God is the true fire of the Spirit.

***THE OPENING HYMN** No. 115

"The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore" (vs. 1, 3, 6)

A POETIC READING

Elizabeth Barret Browning

Earth is crammed with Heaven
and every common bush afire with God.
Only she who sees takes off her shoes.
The rest sit around
and pluck blackberries.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

GIFT OF MUSIC *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

arr. Ronald Miller

Charis Mitchell, bassoon • Alec Wilkes, piano

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3: 9 – 16

Pam Moore

SERMON

"Shoes We Dare Not Wear"

Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

ANTHEM

"I Want to Walk as a Child of Light"

Kathleen Thomerson

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

"Hope"

arr. Joel Raney

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. 117

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"*

POSTLUDE *"Once in Royal David's City"*

arr. Rodney Abriol

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. If you are interested in any of our ministries or programs, contact Jussara Wagner at the church office. Here are a few of things happening this week:

- Mon: 12:45pm The EDGE - Zoom Meeting**
Tue: 11am Bible Study at Sedona Winds
Wed: 10:30 Bible Study Advent Series Part III at CRR
1pm Council Meeting
Thu: 11am Congregational Care Ministry Meeting
1pm Bible Study at CRR
3:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Fri: 9am Yin Yoga at PCH

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



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

Be the Light

Giving Back

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:

*It means so much to us....
that the wider Church remembered us....*



- *Reverend Cathy Barker*
Retired UCC Minister, Helena, MT

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.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund makes Christmas feel special for countless families like Cathy's.

Visit christmasfund.org to learn more and donate online.



Donate Online Here!