

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

December 22, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

\*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

**TO PONDER AS WE GATHER:**

*Advent is a season of anticipation, yearning and longing for  
a different kind of life and a different kind of world.*

*~ Marcus Borg*

**THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**PRELUDE**      *"Lo, How A Rose e'er Blooming"*

arr. Joseph Martin

**\* THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Creator God, we await the arrival of the Christ child.

**We long for joy... the kind that is unavoidable.**

When chaos and division are all around us...

**We long for joy... the kind that is contagious.**

When life is full of frenzy that is frantic...

**We long for joy ... the kind that changes lives.**

This is our prayer, O God.

**In the name of the One about to be born in our hearts.**

**\* THE OPENING HYMN** No. 119

(vs.1-2, 4-5)

*"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"*

**THE CONTEMPORARY READING**

Bishop Oscar Romero

Advent leads us to discover the face of Christ in each brother and sister that we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who wants to join a union, in each peasant who works in the coffee groves. This Advent discovery makes us to not want to rob or cheat them nor want to deny them their rights. They are Christ, and whatever is done to them Christ will take as done to himself. This is what Advent is: Christ living among us.

**THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

**ANTHEM**

*"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)"*

Adele Schreiber, soloist • Alec Wilkes, piano

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1: 39 – 42, 46b – 55

Penny Beers

**SERMON**

"When Love Bends Light"

Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"*

Evelyn R. Larter

Lord Egan, flute

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

**OFFERTORY**

"Gabriel's Message"

arr. Kathleen Henson

Lord Egan, flute • Alec Wilkes, piano

**\* 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. 145 (vs. 1 & 3)

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE** *"The Wexford Carol"* arr. Mark Hayes

We want to keep our beloved members and friends in our prayers during this holiday season. Please pray for:

**Christy D. • Carl B. • RuthAnn R. • Gertrude M. • Wendell V. •  
Lew H. • Nancy H. • Ronaldo • Davis H. •**

### **Social Justice Movie and Discussion for January, 2025**

Sponsored by Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

#### **Becoming Good Ancestors**

Please watch "***Living in Future's Past***" with Jeff Bridges. It's available on YouTube (80 minutes) then join us to share your thoughts on Wednesday, January 8 at 10:30am here in our Painted Cliffs Hall.

*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.*

#### **Holiday Office Schedule**

12/23 Monday - Office open 9am - 4pm  
12/24 Tuesday - Christmas Eve- Office open 9am - 12pm  
12/25 Wednesday - Christmas Day - Office closed  
12/26 Thursday - Office closed  
12/27 Friday - Office closed

## 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**  
**5pm Blue Christmas Service**

**Tue: 11am Bible Study at Sedona Winds**  
**5pm Christmas Concert**  
**5:30pm Christmas Candlelight Service**

**Fri: 9am Yin Yoga**

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

[info@churchoftheredrocks.com](mailto:info@churchoftheredrocks.com)

Visit our website at:

[www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com](http://www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com)

Or visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/churchredrocks](https://www.facebook.com/churchredrocks)

You can also walk in or call us

54 Bowstring Drive Sedona, AZ 86336

(928) 282-7963

**Regular 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

## Healing

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:

*We were always doing ministry, always  
serving (others)... I always say about people like (us),  
who heals the healer?*

*Very often... we don't know how to go about asking  
for help to get the support we need...*

- *Veronica Kyle, member of Covenant UCC  
South Holland, IL*



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.

Will you donate this year to bring the joy of the Christmas season to our ministers and church workers all year long?

Visit [christmasfund.org](http://christmasfund.org) to learn more and donate online.



Donate Online Here!