

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

April 27, 2025
First Sunday of Easter

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Rivers do not drink their own water;
trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself,
and flowers do not spread their
fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is a rule of nature.
~ Pope Francis.*

PRELUDE *Gospel Hymn Medley* Alec Wilkes, piano

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** Ivan Morales

Leader: God of the Risen Christ, we enter this holy space
knowing the gospel of grace and mercy are often
rejected in our world.

**People: Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of
the story.**

Leader: We know the rulers of the world do not have the
final word.

People: The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

Leader: Despite powers and principalities, despite the
clamoring of meanness and cruelty...

People: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it.

*** OPENING HYMN**

pg. 1 (vs. 1-2)

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*** PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Sweet Jesus, embrace us with your love. We have gathered here, for healing and renewal. We have journeyed here to place our lives in your hand. Guide us beyond the empty tomb and into the fullness of your promise. Amen.

Please be seated

GOSPEL HYMN STORY Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

GOSPEL HYMN

pg. 3 (vs. 1 & 4)

"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING

Joyce Matheson

Debbie Wych

Stephen Ministry Class of 2025

Greg and Louise Bridges

Jim and Kathy Rostedt

Ivan Morales

Jerome Ehrhardt

Gene Moore

Suzanne Moore

Gail Heyer

Judy Reichert

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

As a beloved community of faith, we send you forth into this ministry of care and presence with the everlasting blessings of our Living God, that you might share with those in need the love of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

ANTHEM

"He Never Failed Me Yet"

Robert Ray

CRR Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 36:5-9

Ivan Morales

GOSPEL HYMN STORY The Little Brown Church in the Vale

GOSPEL HYMN *"The Little Brown Church in the Vale"* pg. 26

A MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Introduction

Ed Bowersock

Recognition and Gratitude

Margaret Gramley

BLESSING OF THE SOLAR PANELS

Leader: As stewards of God's creation, we are here today to dedicate this solar array to the glory of God as an act of Christian service and stewardship.

People: We seek to practice what we preach, as a community of faith, and care for God's world.

Leader: God created the sun to be a source of power.

People: Today, the inexhaustible power of God's creation, provides for us this solar array on our roof.

Leader: Jesus said we are the light of the world.

People: May our witness to the goodness of God's world and God's love, bring light into many lives.

Leader: God said, "Let there be light."

People: And we say, "Thank you!" God's light has illuminated our path to this moment of celebration.

Leader: Together, we dedicate these panels to redeeming work of God, and we give thanks for the gifts of your people, and for the work of many hands, which have brought us to this day.

Unison Prayer

God of light and life, your love has been with us through times of abundance and times of waste. Today, as we utilize the renewable resources your creation provided, we give thanks for

the generosity of the many people who made this project a reality. We give thanks for those who work in science and technology to create the gift of solar power. We thank you, O God, for Your hands were guiding theirs to lead and guide us in the protection the environment. Amen.

GOSPEL SING ALONG

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Shine the Light"* Raymond Wise
Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers

MOMENT OF GIVING Rev. Dr. Margaret Gramley

OFFERTORY *"Hymn to Freedom"* Oscar Peterson

*** DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bless these gifts and the hands that offered them, that we might be transformed through it. Help us to be a blessing for others, in Jesus' name, we pray. **AMEN**

HOMILY Flip the Switch
Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

*** PARTING HYMN** pg. 18 (vs 1 & 5)
"Standing on the Promises"

*** BENEDICTION** Take the Name of Jesus with You

POSTLUDE *"Benediction Medley"* arr. Mark Hayes

Please continue to pray for our friends and members:
John M. • Helene L. • Davis H. • Gertrude M. • Chuck G. •
Elaine G. • Zach C. • Steven W.

***If you know anyone in need of prayers,
please contact the church office.***



Floreciendo / In Full Bloom

Spring Concerts & Argentina Preview

Shrine of the Ages Choir, Alec Wilkes, piano, Timothy Westerhaus, conductor

SEDONA
 Sunday, May 4, 3:00 pm
 Church of the Red Rocks
 54 Bowstring Dr, Sedona

ADMISSION

FREE
 Donations Greatfully Accepted

FEATURING

Mexican Renaissance Music
 American Spirituals
 Filipino, Latin American, & U.S. Folk Music
 Poetry by Pablo Neruda & Sara Teasdale

COMPOSERS

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla (Mexico)
 Johannes Brahms (Germany)
 Ily Matthew Mariano (Philippines)
 Saunder Choi (Philippines)
 and Cedric Dent, Alexander Blake,
 Morten Lauridsen & Carol Barnett (U.S.)

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 ARIZONA
 UNIVERSITY

Kit School of Music
naui.edu/cfo/music

For more information about what is happening at the church visit our website, subscribe to the Canyon Echo, our weekly newsletter, or contact the church office at:

info@churchoftheredrocks.com

Visit our website at:

www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

Or visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/churchredrocks

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

Settled Pastor

Dr. Ryan Holder

Director of Music

Mr. Alec Wilkes

Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

Mrs. Suzanne Moore

Musician Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. George Ault

Pastor Emeritus

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.**



To give in a way that is not only simple and safe, but also efficient and cost-effective for the church, please scan the QR code below.

We appreciate you!