

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



January 7 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Epiphany

Epiphany Pageant

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

*We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Please join us in Chapin Hall for fellowship time after worship. **The Welcome Table** in Chapin Hall offers information about the church and members who can answer your questions. **Hearing devices** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available down the hall in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please include your full address and phone number as you sign our friendship registration pads, and please wear your nametags. All announcements should be written down and given to the ushers or pastor prior to worship. **If you have a prayer request you would like read aloud for today's prayers, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the friendship registration pads (your name is optional) and be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.***

PRELUDE

“Jardin de Dolly”

Faure

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Inderbitzen

Leader: We gather in the light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

People: We seek the light's ancient wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the light that is God's continuing gift.

People: We live into the light's new wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

People: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the light from Bethlehem's cradle.

*HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

NC(black)164

**please rise in body or in spirit*

Bold denotes unison response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of light and love,
in this very moment the star still beckons.
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways
of healing and hope,
restoration and renewal,
as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship.
We ask this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying,
Our Father who 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

NC 743

D Asus4 A D
And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,
Em A7 D D7
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
G A Bm F#m Em A7 D
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.



Today the young people will present an Epiphany Pageant: a retelling and reenactment of the Christmas story. As witnessed to by the children, the gift of baby Jesus, also known as 'God with us', was not for a few people at a specific time in history, but for all the world and for all time. Let us all be reminded of God's love for you and for all creation!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible N.T. p.649

SERMON

Epiphany Pageant

S.P.I.R.I.T.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Silent Night
Angels We Have Heard on High
Away in a Manger
We Three Kings of Orient Are
Joy to the World



OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will collect the prayer request cards.

Invitation to the Offering

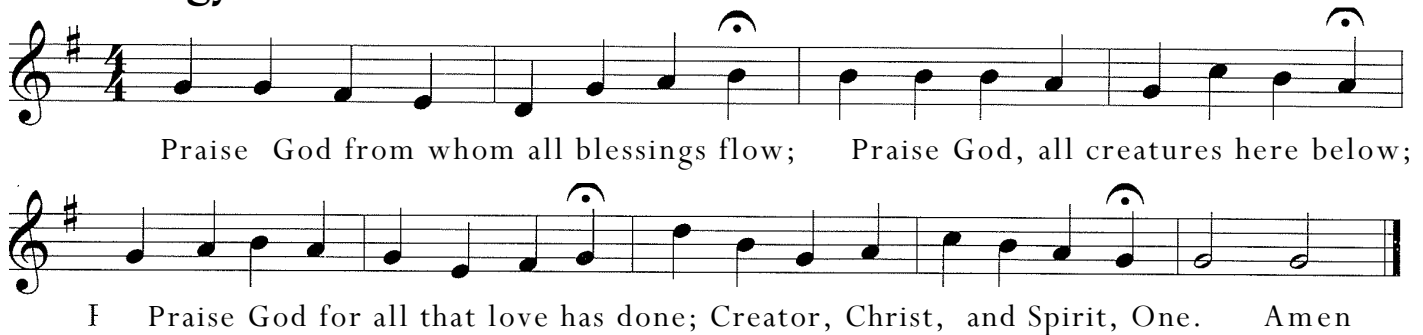
For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Offertory

“Pas Espagnol”

Faure

*Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

I Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns



Sung Call to Prayer

Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,
make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,
you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness, make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God, you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.'

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness.

We wonder if we are loveable.

Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

All: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices.

Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace?

We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

All: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

But in Christ, God has given us a new light,

kindling unconditional love for us,

and showing us a well-lit path

to wholeness and forgiveness;

to courage and clarity.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Leader: At God's command the heavens open, the mountains quake and love descends as an ever-flowing stream. A light shines in the night and the night cannot endure. Trust that the power that created you in love now forgives and renews you in the same divine spirit. Go forth to proclaim the awesome deeds of our loving God!

All: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership. This morning, we will have communion by Intinction. (Dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that the communicant receives both together.) Please come up through the center aisle to the front where the deacons will serve you. If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please tell a serving Deacon when you come up.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Now let us share among us a sign of God's peace.

You are invited to share a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ with those around you (a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“The Virgin's Slumber Song”

Weber

GUEST ORGANIST

Gail Tanguay

LITURGIST

Bob Inderbitzen

USHERS

Bob Inderbitzen, Wendy Ware

COMMUNION SERVERS

Rob Grandell, Gail Hall, Cheryl Hummel
Judy Graham, Val Triblets, Elaine Some

HOSPITALITY

Jackie Little



Diaper Drive

The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut. We'll collect diapers during the Epiphany Pageant today.

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Copies of the final version of the proposed **Constitution** are now available for pickup in the narthex, in the hallway across from the office, and in Chapin Hall. A related "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document is also available. Look for additional info, displays, and perhaps a second-hour session during the next several months, in preparation for voting on this new Constitution at the Budget and Elections Meeting on March 18. If you would prefer to receive digital versions of the two documents (in pdf format), please send an email request to treasurer@rhccucc.org.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

If worship is canceled, a notice will be posted either Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page – www.facebook.com/rhccucc
- Our website – rhccucc.org

Stay safe!

SCRIP-SURE



What is it? Scrip-sure is a fundraising program for our church, which allows the regular shopping we do at a variety of retailers to generate income for the church. How? Participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Church members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. Everybody wins! The retailers get our business, and our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would all be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations, and many other businesses, including online retailers

We have most of the usual cards in inventory for immediate purchase this morning. Here is a partial list of cards typically available:

- Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace, Whole Foods
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Restaurants: Bertucci's, Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Walmart

Today is the "end of December" ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup on Sunday, January 14. After today, the next order will be placed on January 28.

Did you know that you can donate to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry and "Covenant-to-Care for Children" through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries (food pantry) or other retail stores (CC). For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries or clothing. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Stop by the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered. Think SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

January 7

10:00am **Worship/Pageant**
9:30am **Childcare**
11:00am **Coffee Hour**
5:00pm **HS Youth Movie Night**
3:30pm **Tamil School**

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall
Rms 22,23,24,26,27



January 8

7:00pm **Women's AA**

Monday

Chapin Hall

January 9

7:00pm **Council**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 22

January 10

6:00pm **Music Committee**

Wednesday

Fiorilli

January 11

9:30am **Music Together**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

Thursday

Rm 22
Chapin Hall

January 12

6:00pm **Tamil School**

Friday

Rms 22,24,25,27

January 13

Saturday



8	Brian Silkowski
9	Debra Peterson
9	Melody Hall
10	Natalie Tine
10	Nicolis Alessi
11	Gregory Pickett
12	David Dean
13	Robert Speers
13	Louis DiRenzo

COMFORT FOOD DINNER - Saturday, January 27, 5:30 pm

Nothing warms the soul on a cold winter's night better than food, friends and music!
Come enjoy our Comfort Food Dinner, with music performed by the acoustic blues-men of
THE COFFEE GRINDERS! Tickets for Adults: \$10.00. Kids 4-12 years old: \$5.00
Children under 4 years old: Free. Family cap \$35.00.
Please call to reserve tickets with Jeannie Alessi 860/839-1321.
Tickets will be on sale during January Coffee Hours. Snow date: January 28, 2018.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

805 Old Main Street

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Church Office: office@rhccucc.org / 860 529-4167

Church Website: rhccucc.org

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/rhccucc

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Open and Affirming Statement

Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian Faith,

We, the members of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

Approved by congregational vote June 2009

Ministry Team

Ministers: All the members of the church

Pastor: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing ccowing@rhccucc.org

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling