

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



March 3, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
Last Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration

~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 "Amazing Grace" traditional, arr. D. Hall

CALL TO WORSHIP Sarah DeGiovanni

L: Something drew us together this morning

All: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship

L: Some holy mystery we call God

All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus

L: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit

All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.

***HYMN** "Peace Like a River" (in bulletin)

**please rise in body or in spirit*

Bold denotes unison response

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

O God, you are beyond words and description,
your love is beyond knowledge and explanation.

Make our hearts ready to receive you.

Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory
of your transfiguration.

We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit

as we pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying,

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 773

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

The first line of musical notation is in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the lyrics 'Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,' are placed below the notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody in the treble staff and accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics 'O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.' are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:28-36

Pew Bible NT p.

SERMON

“Transformed”

Rev. Craig Cowing

HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

NCH 472

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

“This Little Light of Mine”

H. Loes, arr. D. Hall

*Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

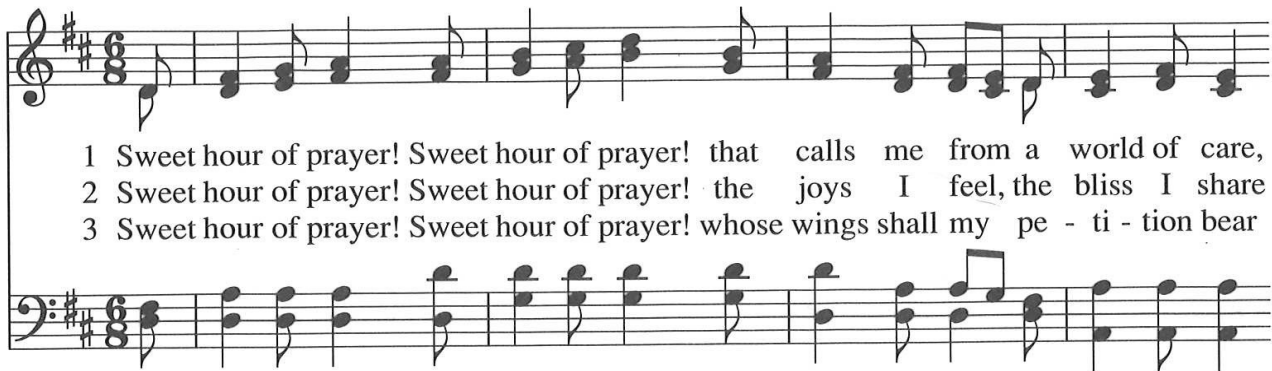
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

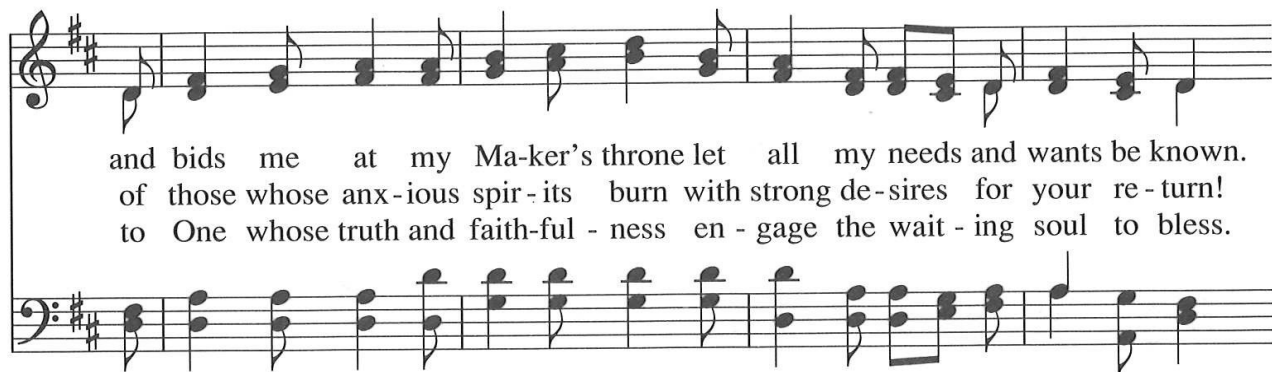
Sung Call to Prayer

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” verse 1

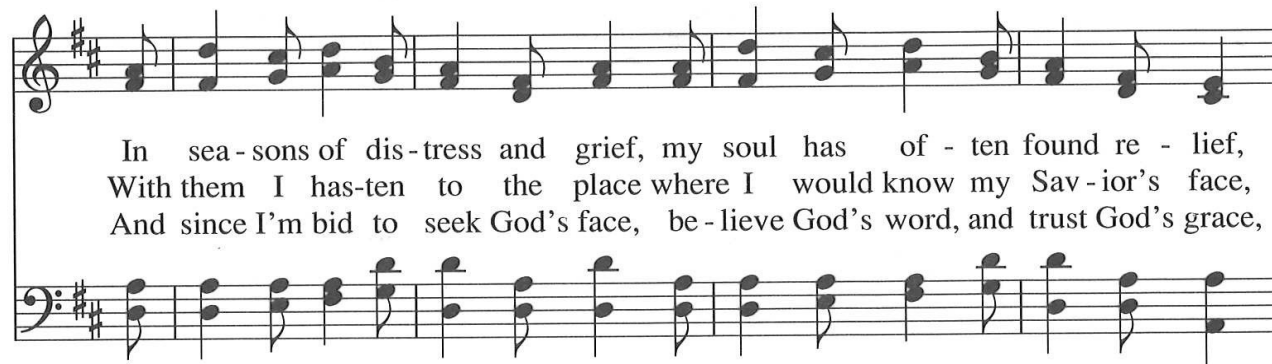
NCH505




1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
I'll cast a-way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion; all are welcome to participate, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.

Prayer of Confession

L: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. “It’s good for us to be here. Let’s get comfortable.” We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

All: God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

L: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God’s love and live in God’s freedom.

All: We believe! Thanks be to God!

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

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.

Communion Music

“Give Me Jesus”

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, you continually transform us by your love. You transform us as we join together in this sacred meal. We thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us to live out this transformation as we go out into the world in Jesus’ name. 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).

*HYMN

“Down by the Riverside”

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside.
Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside...

Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace,
Down by the riverside...

Gonna shake hands around the world,
Down by the riverside...



BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"When the Saints Go Marching In" - traditional, arr. D. Hall



LITURGIST

Sarah DeGiovanni

USHERS

Marge Murk, Jarod Taylor, Wendy Ware

COMMUNION SERVERS

Chris Sheehan, Laurel Cole, Jan LaCava, Candy Smith, Rob Grandell

HOSPITALITY

Jackie Little, Anita Hawkins

Today's Altar Flowers are given and The Tower is lit this week,

in honor of Mary Damiata

by Lisa, Jackson & Maya McNally.

*In
Loving
Memory*

All music today performed by the Rocky Hill Congregational Church Dixieland Band:

Gail Hall, Clarinet

Ruth Fitzgerald, Baritone horn

Greg Murphy, Tuba

Rhody Triblets, Guitar

John Corvo, Drums

Dave Hall, Trumpet, Director, and Arranger



March 5 – Shrove Tuesday Supper and Worship Service - 5:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday will be celebrated by Inreach and Faith Formation. Please join us for pancakes, activities and music; and then we will turn our hearts and minds to the reflective time of Lent, as celebrated with a service of prayer and ashes.



A Journey Through Lent

Walking the Labyrinth - On Ash Wednesday March 6, the Chapel will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m for walking the labyrinth. There will be a basket of stones at the entry. You'll be invited to take a stone, carry it with you through the labyrinth, and leave it at the center. Labyrinths have been used for centuries, in many cultures, to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation. When we walk the labyrinth, we begin a pilgrimage. Where will yours take you?



DISASTER RELIEF BUCKET DONATION – WE DID IT!

In case you missed it - last Sunday, February 24th the congregation assembled emergency clean up buckets during worship to donate to Church World Service (CWS). CWS provides disaster relief to families and communities affected by flooding, tornadoes and other disasters. Thanks to all who gave of their time, talent, & treasure!



Council News: The Council has retained a consulting firm, Agile Church, to carry out a preliminary “Health Check” of various practices and procedures related to worship, hospitality, communications and marketing, financial management, stewardship, governance, and personnel. We believe that it’s important to periodically “take our temperature” as to how well we are doing in being the active, engaged and welcoming church we want to be. Interviews will be held with various church leaders and staff. We expect to receive a completed report in the next couple of months. At that time, we will share the results and discuss what we need to do to respond to the findings. Agile Church has a strong track record in this type of work and has been instrumental in helping churches to grow and prosper.



LENTEN PROGRAMS AT RHCC UCC SOCIAL JUSTICE LECTURE SERIES SUNDAYS AT 7PM

In March Rocky Hill Congregational Church will be sponsoring a Lenten Social Justice series of talks on social justice issues in Connecticut. Each talk will be on a Sunday evening at 7 PM in the church's fellowship hall, Chapin Hall. Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation based at 805 Old Main Street in Rocky Hill CT. *Join us at 6:15pm for a 'Simple Soup Supper' prior to the talk, and coffee and desert will be served after.*

Sunday, March 10: Human Trafficking in CT:

Annamarie Boulay, Executive Director of The Underground, an organization based in Bloomfield which addresses human trafficking in our region.

Sunday, March 17: Cori Mackey: Social Justice Issues in Hartford

Cori is the Executive Director of the Christian Activities Council, a 150+ year old organization based in Hartford which works with residents on housing and related issues.

Sunday, March 24: Food Insecurity: Melissa Hicks

Melissa Hicks is the Director of the Department of Human Services for the Town of Rocky Hill, CT. She will talk on the issue of food insecurity locally and globally.

Sunday, March 31: Women in Incarceration in CT:

Lia Coppolecchia, a volunteer with A Sacred Space, an organization in New London which works with women who have been in incarceration, to help them rebuild their lives and discover their potential.



Music Ministry

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert Friday, March 22nd!

Rocky Hill Congregational Church Music Ministry will present a concert with Bobby Jo Valentine on March 22nd. Come at 6:00pm for a light supper, followed by the concert at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public (a free will offering will be taken).

Talented, engaging and authentic, Bobby's gentle and humorous style will touch your heart. Join us for a great evening of food, sharing, humor and deep connection. All are welcome!

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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, 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
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on March 31 (with delivery on April 7). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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

March 3

10:00am Worship-Dixieland Band
9:30am Childcare
11:00am Coffee Hour

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Chapin Hall

March 4

7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Chapin Hall

March 5

5:00pm SHROVE TUESDAY



Tuesday

Chapin Hall

March 6

9am-2pm Ash Wednesday Labyrinth

Wednesday

Chapel



March 7

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

Thursday

Rm 6
Chapin Hall

March 8

9am LSP/Music
6pm LSP Math Night

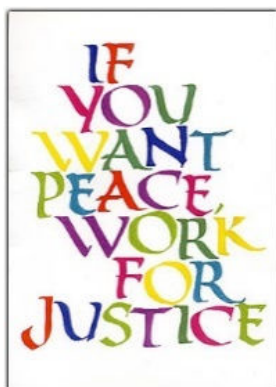
Friday

Rm 6
Preschool Room, Rm 6, Teen Room



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Bill Hoffman
- 1 Todd McGowan
- 2 Rebecca Milles
- 3 Pat Gordon
- 2 Grace Donahue
- 4 John Van Doran
- 6 Timothy Bishop
- 6 Bay Tran
- 8 Kevin Sudell
- 9 Colleen Schultz



In March we will be sponsoring a Lenten Social Justice series of talks on social justice issues in Connecticut. Each talk will be on a Sunday evening at 7 PM in Chapin Hall. Join us at 6:15pm for a 'Simple Soup Supper' prior to the talk, and coffee and desert will be served after.

Sunday, March 10: Human Trafficking in CT: Annamarie Boulay, Executive Director of The Underground, an organization based in Bloomfield which addresses human trafficking in our region. Join us!

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: Steve Smith admin@rhccucc.org