

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**March 17, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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*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.*

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## 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.*

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## INTROIT

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

The Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christopher Sheehan

L: God is my light, my hope, my all in all: whom shall I fear?

**All: God is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?**

L: One thing I asked of God: let me live in the shelter of you,  
in the beauty of your realm, in the wonder of your house.

**All: We seek your face, God! Do not turn aside!**

L: Teach us your way, God, show us your path through all that life brings.

**All: We shall see the blessing of God: come, Holy Spirit!**

## \*HYMN

“The God of Abraham Praise”

NCH (black) 24

*\*please rise in body or in spirit*

***Bold denotes unison response***

## \*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, we are too well aware that life brings us pains, doubts, uncertainties.  
We remember that Abram was filled with questioning,  
the early church surrounded by threats,  
Jesus himself confronted with fearful powers.  
In the midst of that awareness,  
we call upon you, our everlasting refuge.  
Remember your people, our God.  
We long for a way through the frights of the world;  
we pray for your support.  
Come, Holy One; come, Spirit of Life.  
Come into this holy place and this holy hour,  
and fill us again with assurance of your grace.  
We ask it 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 the sung response is written for a two-part setting. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody for the top part starts on a G4, moves to A4, then Bb4, and continues with various intervals. The bottom part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics 'Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,' are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

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

The second line of the sung response continues the two-part setting. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody for the top part starts on a G4, moves to A4, then Bb4, and continues with various intervals. The bottom part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics 'O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.' are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures. The line ends with a double bar line.

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Georgette Huie

### CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

*(Children are invited to depart for our Church School lessons)*

“We Will Keep a Place For You”

by John Corrado



We will keep a place for you where - ev - er you may go.

We'll sus-tain this home of faith and love you've come to know. Go in peace, bring

hope to hearts that yearn. We will keep a place for you 'till you re-turn.

### ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”  
The Choir

Bob Chilcott

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-6

Pew Bible OT p12

### SERMON

“Children of Abraham”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

### \*HYMN

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

NCH (black) 417



## 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 Anthem

### \*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

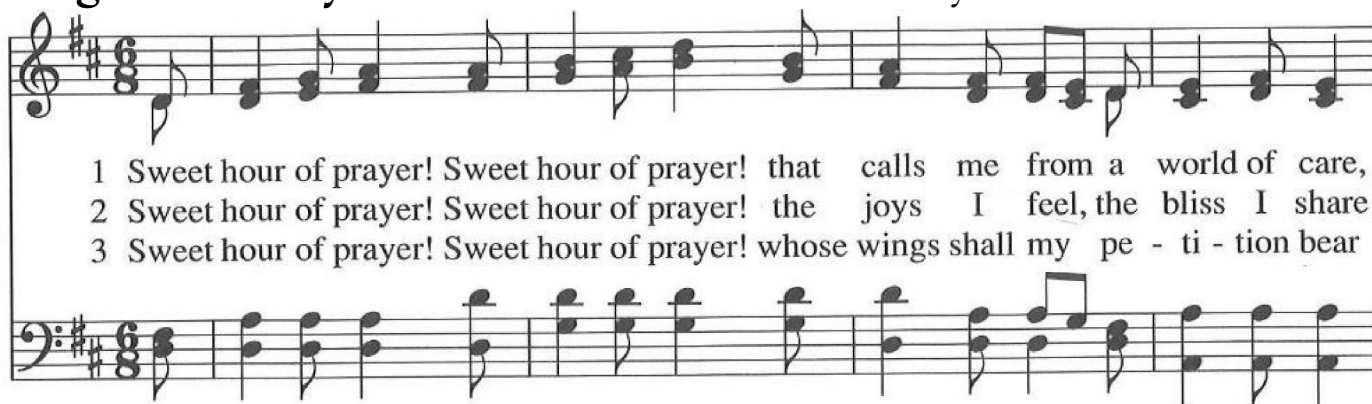
### \*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

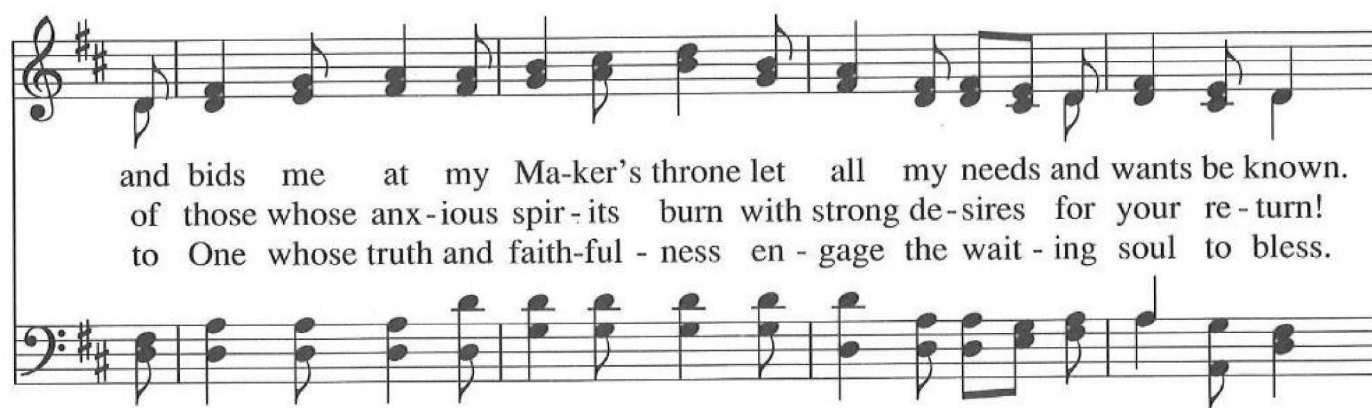
### Joys & Concerns



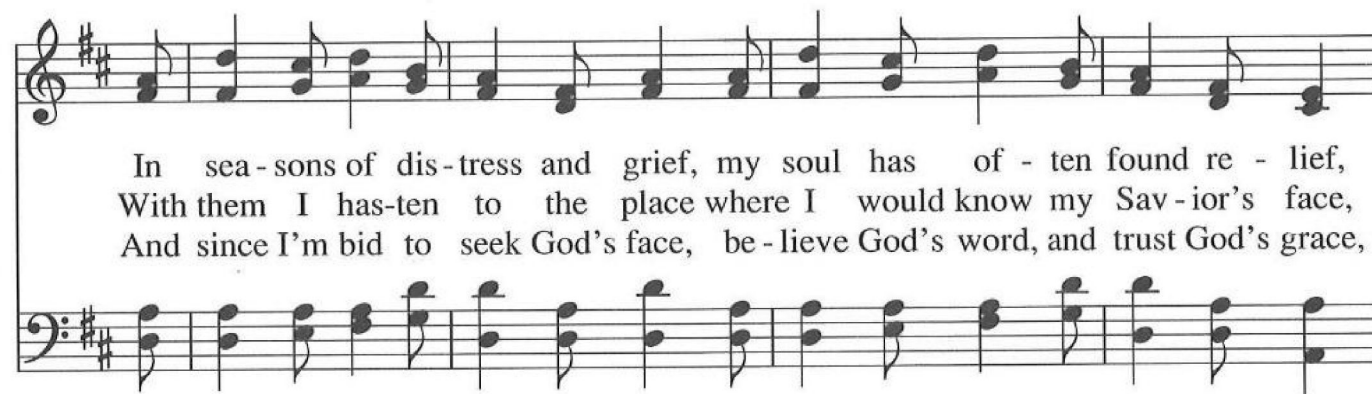




1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,  
2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



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

### \*HYMN

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

NCH (black) 537

### BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

Jubilation on "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Larry Visser

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### LITURGIST

Christopher Sheehan

### USHERS

Marge Murk, Deb Copes and Steve Smith

### HOSPITALITY

Jean Goff, Bill Cordes

*The Tower is lighted this week in loving memory of Michael's father, Tom Andonucci,  
by the Worship Ministry Team*



TODAY – ALL ARE WELCOME – 6:00PM IN CHAPIN HALL

On Sunday, March 17 at 7 PM the next topic in Rocky Hill Congregational Church's Social Justice series will be **Social Justice Issues in Hartford**. Cori Mackey, Director of the Christian Activities Council, will talk about the challenges that Hartford residents face including housing and other issues. Please come and learn more about our capital city!

The talk will be preceded by a soup and bread supper at 6:15 p.m.

### WELCOME VISITORS!

Interested in joining the church? If you'd like to learn more about our church community; please join us during coffee hour after worship and ask to speak with Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon. We are an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.





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

During Lent, we are sponsoring a Lenten Social Justice series of talks on social justice issues in Connecticut. *Join us at 6:15pm for a ‘Simple*

*Soup Supper’ prior to the talk, and coffee and desert will be served after.*

**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.



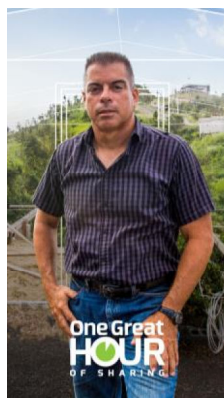
**Second Sunday in Lent**

- 17 Psalm 61
- 18 Psalm 62
- 19 Psalm 63
- 20 Psalm 64
- 21 1 Kings 3:1-15
- 22 1 Kings 8:1-21
- 23 1 Kings 8:22-40

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.







The One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten offering of the UCC. It will be collected on **Sunday March 31, 2019**. It responds to disasters, ministers to refugees and helps to build sustainable communities in over 80 countries. In cooperation with others such as Global Ministries and Church World Service it is a network of sharing and caring. One Great Hour of Sharing is but one concrete way we can show that we can reach out beyond what we can see and help brothers and sisters in need worldwide.

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL  
BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING  
Sunday, March 24, 2019**



The annual Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is called for Sunday, March 24, immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business: 1) Presentation and approval of the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. 2) To ratify Time, Talent, Treasure Ministry recommendations for coming year beginning May 1, 2019.

Copies of the budget proposal for the next fiscal year are available for pickup in the narthex, the parish house hallway, and Chapin Hall.

Copies of the proposed amendments to the church Constitution are available this morning at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. These amendments, which require 90 days of public notice prior to adoption, will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 16, 2019.

**Walk Against Hunger: Saturday April 27, 2019**

Join Our Walk Team! Outreach & Witness Ministry Team

invites you to Join our team! Battling hunger is a team effort. In Hartford and Tolland counties more than 120,000 people worry about having enough food for their families. The Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is the largest anti-hunger event of its kind in Connecticut. The Walk itself is less than 2 miles

long, making it fun for people of all ages. It begins and ends with music, children's activities, informational booths, and so much more. It takes place on Saturday, April 27th at 10 AM at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford. We'll meet at the church at 8 AM for a continental breakfast, and then carpool to the walk. Sign-up forms will be available starting next week. You can also support our team with a donation to Foodshare by searching for our team, "Rocky Hill Congregational Church" on the Foodshare website. See Heather Collins or Elaine Sellenberg with questions.



## 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 17

10:00am Worship  
9:30am Childcare  
10:00am Church School  
11:00am Coffee Hour  
7:00pm Social Justice Series

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26  
Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall



### March 18

7:00pm Women's AA  
7:00pm Bonsai  
7:30pm Bell Choir

### Monday

Fiorilli  
Bonsai  
Choir Loft

### March 19

### Tuesday

### March 20

7:30pm Choir

### Wednesday

Choir Room

### March 21

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

### Thursday

Room 6  
Chapin Hall

### March 22

9:00am LSP/Music Together  
Noon Set-up for concert  
6:00pm BobbyJo Valentine concert

### Friday

Rm 6  
Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall

17	Kathryn Morgan
20	Susan VanNess
20	Charlotte Reed-Swale
21	Ryan Bengston
22	Gladys Carpenter
23	Marilyn Van Doran



### *Music Ministry*

#### **Bobby Jo Valentine Concert Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

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!

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**805 Old Main Street**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Church Office: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) / 860 529-4167

Church Website: [www.RockyHillUCC.org](http://www.RockyHillUCC.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://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](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Steve Smith [admin@rhccucc.org](mailto:admin@rhccucc.org)