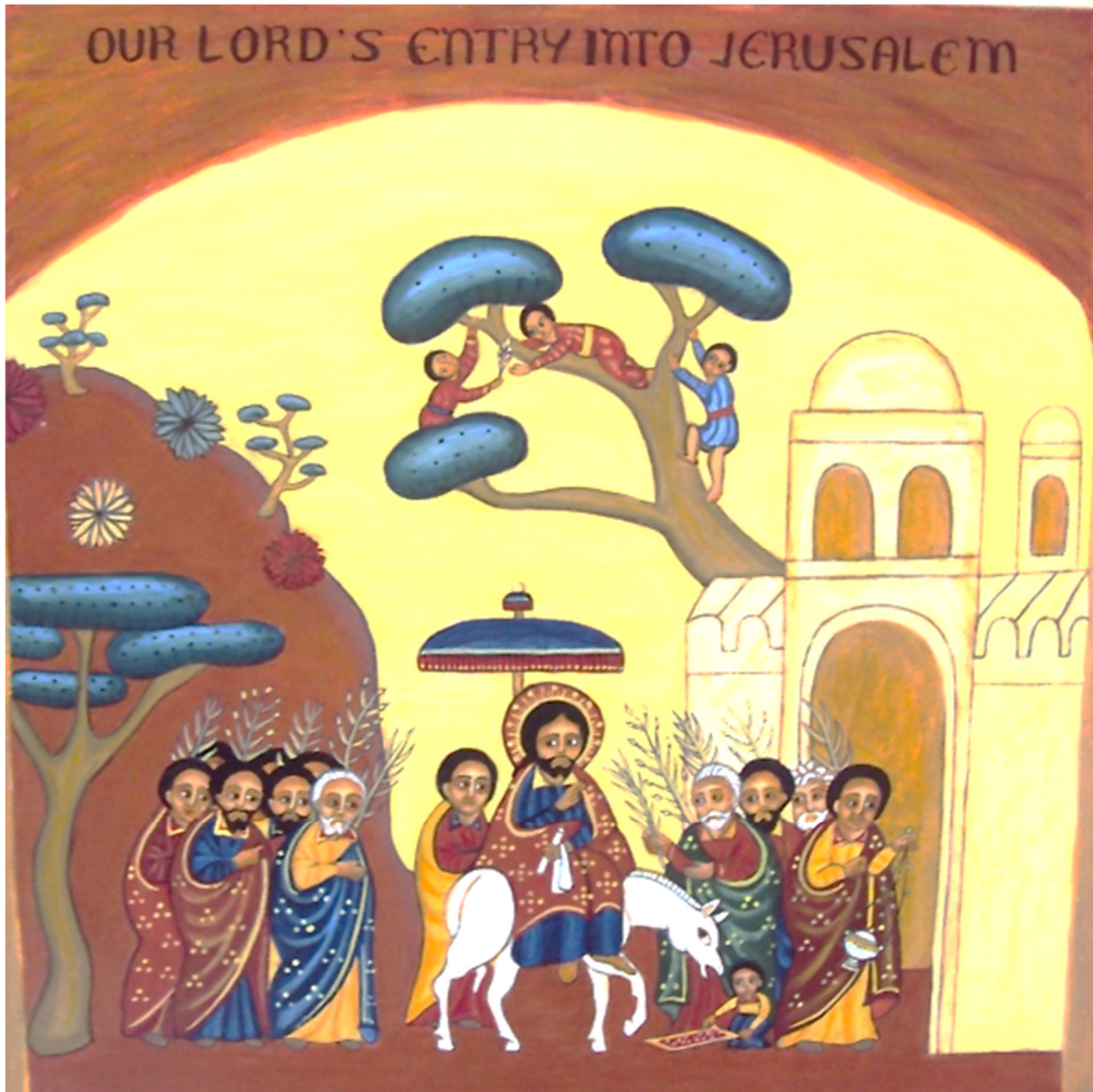


# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**March 25, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

***Palm Sunday***

# ~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 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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## PRELUDE

“Trumpet Voluntary”

John Stanley

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Isaiah 50:4-9a)

Barry Wilcock

Leader: Come. Come seeking words.

All: **Come to let your tongue give praise.**  
**Come. Come to find your voice.**  
**Come to hear the response.**  
**Come. Come to open your ears.**  
**Come to listen.**  
**Come. Come to be healed by the silence.**  
**Come to stand together.**  
**Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.**  
**Come to find God.**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*\***Bold type** denotes collective response.*

*In the spirit of Palm Sunday, you are encouraged to wave your palm branches,  
as we raise our voices to welcome and bless Jesus Christ in our midst.*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**      “The Palms” (*Les Rameaux*)

by J. Faure

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay  
Are strewn this day in festal preparation.  
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,  
E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.

Refrain

*Join all and sing, His name declare!  
Let every voice resound with acclamation!  
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!  
Bless Him that cometh to bring us salvation!*

His word goes forth, and peoples by its might  
Once more regain freedom from degradation.  
Humanity to each doth give his right.  
While those in darkness find restored the light.

*(Refrain)*

Sing and rejoice, O! blessed Jerusalem.  
Of all thy sons sing thee emancipation!  
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem  
Bring faith and hope to thee forevermore.

*(Refrain)*



## **\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Come. Come our God. Come through the streets.**

**Come into the house. Come to find a space beside us at the table. Come to challenge our answers about why tragedy comes, why poverty increases, why we are afraid. Come our God.**

**Speak to us in the silence with wisdom greater than ours with love deeper than ours with change wider than ours.**

**We pray 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.**

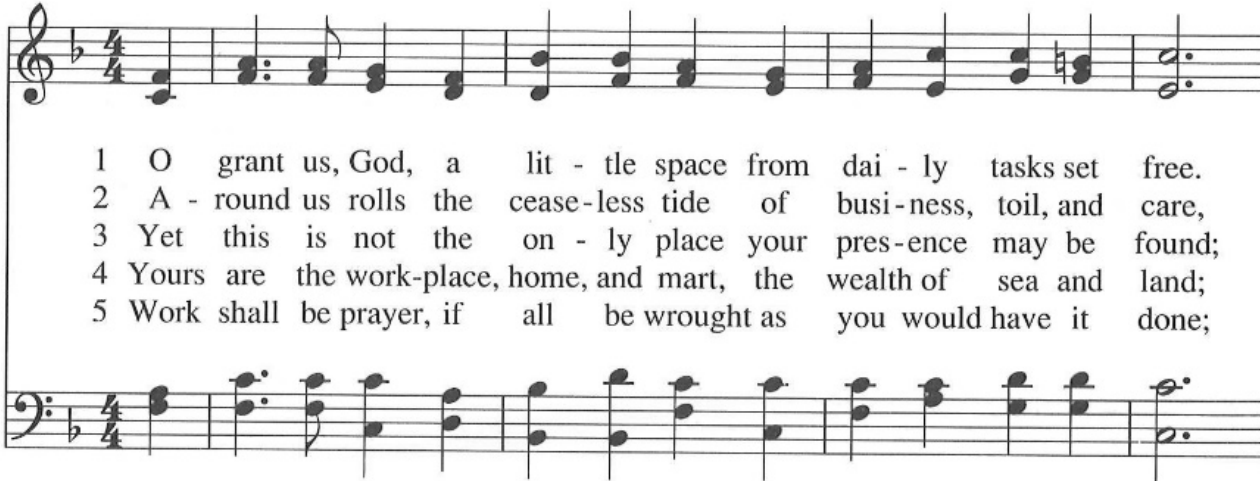
**For thine is the kingdom and the power**

**and the glory forever. Amen.**

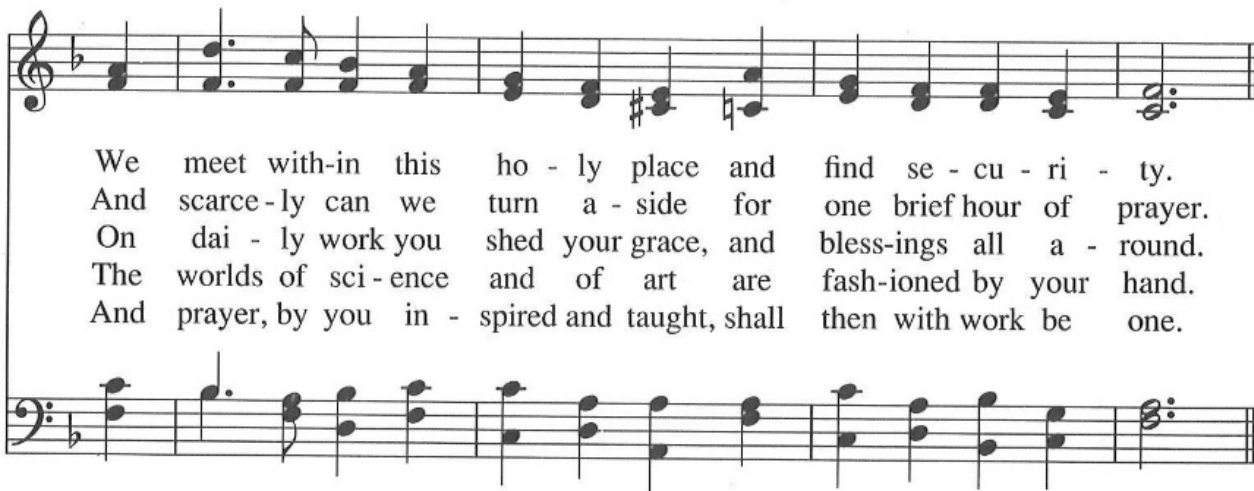


**\*SUNG RESPONSE** "O Grant Us, God, a Little Space"

N 516 verse.1



1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.  
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,  
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;  
4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;  
5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.  
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.  
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

**CHILDREN'S RECEPTIONAL**

*(Children are invited to depart for S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School)*



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**

“Joyful Rhythm”  
Bell Choir

Kevin McChesney

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 11:1-11

NT pew bible p23

**SERMON**

“Come In”

The Rev. Craig Cowing

**\*HYMN**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

NCH190

**OFFERING OF GIFTS**

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor will come to the center aisle to receive 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**

“My Song is Love Unknown”  
The Choir

Mark Schweizer

**\*Doxology**



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

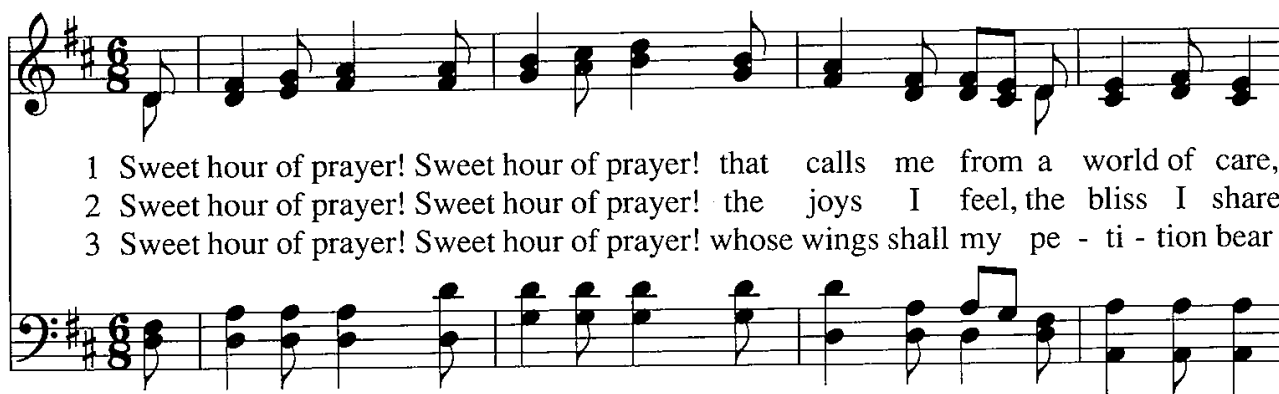


Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen -

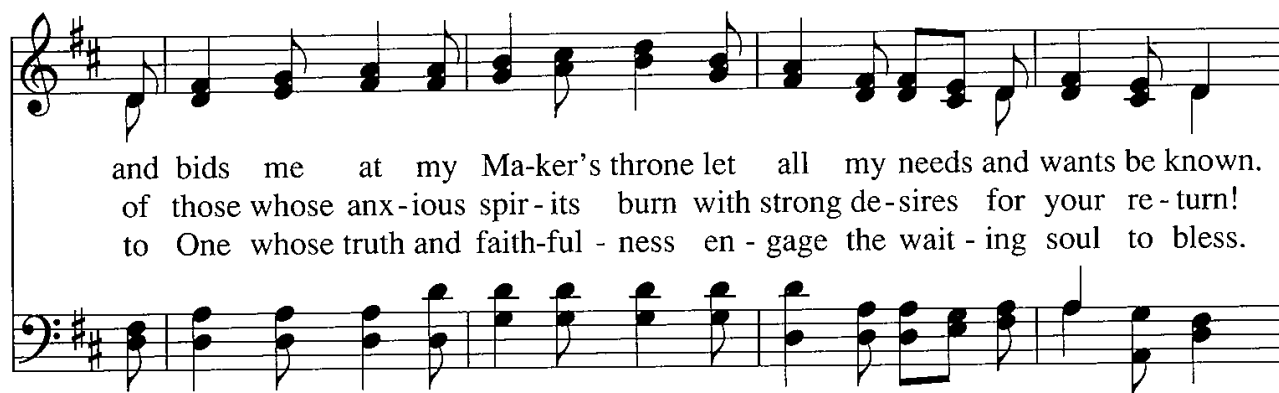
**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

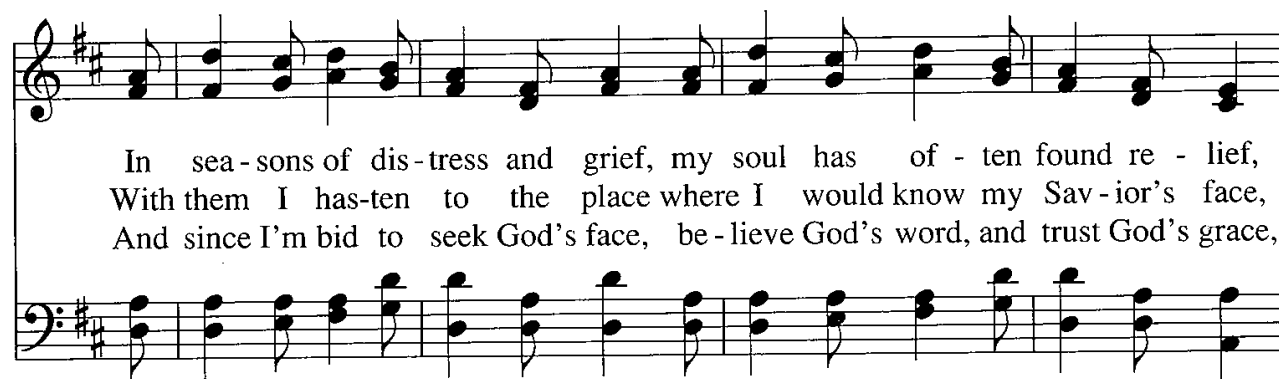
**Joys & Concerns**



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 and Silent Prayer

\*HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

NCH #213

### LITANY FOR HOLY WEEK

Christ our Friend, today we have entered the week we call holy –  
with songs and shouts, palms and prayers:

we have cheered you as our savior, hailed you as our hero;

**forgive us tomorrow, when our passion wanes.**

Today we have turned to you and trusted you again;

**forgive us on Tuesday when we will think we can take care of  
ourselves.**

Today we have called you the center of our lives;

**forgive us on Wednesday when we will have forgotten.**

Today we have called out to you by name;

**forgive us on Thursday, when we pretend we’ve never met you.**

Today we have gathered and called ourselves your disciples;

**forgive us on Friday, when we will turn and run away.**

In your hour of trial, you will seek your trusted friends and they will say,

**“We do not know him.”**

In your hour of trial, you will say “See, my betrayer is at hand,”

**and we will pretend not to understand.**

Before Pilate you will stand and claim a kingdom not of this world;

**and Pilate will not understand.**

The crowds will gather, like today, and Pilate will ask them,

“What shall I do with this Jesus?” And the crowds will shout,

**“Crucify him!”**

And so it will be, that with cheering voices and nailed-shut hearts,

**we will crucify Love.**

And then it will be, that with faithfulness from the foundations of the world,

**Sorrowed Love will await its rising.**

*Please remain seated for the postlude.*

POSTLUDE

“When Jesus Wept”

The Choir

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**LITURGIST**

Barry Wilcock

**USHERS**

Kim Burghoff, Sarah and Jim DeGiovanni  
Nancy Parsons, Steve Smith, Wendy Ware

**HOSPITALITY**

Christine and John Engel

This week's Altar Flowers are given by Nancy Parsons  
loving memory of a dear friend, Linda Salisbury.



The Diaconate is looking for help delivering Easter flowers to our church members and friends who are homebound. If you have the time and desire to deliver a flower to one of our members, please contact Deb Copes, 860-729-6541, or by email at [deb.copes@gmail.com](mailto:deb.copes@gmail.com).

**REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS!**

*The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, April 1*

The three choices are:

Easter Lily in 6 1/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.00)

Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$8.50)

Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$8.50)



The Deadline for orders is TODAY, Palm Sunday, March 25

*Please fill out the order form in the back of the bulletin*

# 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, 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 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 Easter Sunday, April 1. After today, the next order will be placed on April 29.

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 25 SUNDAY**

**Easter Flower Orders Due**

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:00am **Church School**  
5:00pm **Confirmation Class**  
5:00pm **MS Youth**

**March 26**

**9:30am NEWSLETTER MAILING**

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

**March 27**

7:00pm Cedar Hollow  
7:00pm Hearing Voices

**March 28**

7:00pm **Faith Formation**  
**Teacher Training**  
7:30pm **Choir**

**March 29**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7:00pm Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary

**March 30**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Office & Preschool Closed*

9am-2pm **Prayer and meditation**  
1pm-4pm **Icon Painting**  
6:00pm Tamil School

**March 31**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

10:00am -Family Activities and Worship!



Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26,27  
Parlor  
Restaurant

**Monday**

Fiorilli  
Fiorilli  
Sanctuary

**Tuesday**

Fiorilli  
Room 23

**Wednesday**

Fiorilli  
Sanctuary

**Thursday**

**Friday**

Chapel  
Fiorilli  
Rms 22,23,24,27

**Saturday**



- 24 Bea Donahue
- 24 Sarah Mosure
- 26 Todd Pender
- 27 Richard Sweezy, Jr
- 28 Gail Fu
- 28 Nicole Graham
- 29 Kim Burghoff
- 30 Jayson Veley
- 31 Mark Walworth
- 31 Pat Hughes-Walworth

**Holy Saturday**

10:00 am.

Egg Hunt, and a brief time of Worship.



**Easter Worship:**

6:30am Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

and

10am Service in Sanctuary

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: [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.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: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling [lrpulling@icloud.com](mailto:lrpulling@icloud.com)