

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**March 29, 2018 ~ 7:00 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday**

This evening's service for Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper and the crucifixion of Christ, through the Sacrament of Communion (The Lord's Supper) and the Service of Tenebrae.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," recalling Jesus' words to his disciples, "This I command you, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

"Tenebrae," also an old Latin word, means "darkness" or "shadows." During the Service of Tenebrae, candles are gradually extinguished as the story of the Passion of Christ is recounted in Scripture. The increasing darkness symbolizes the betrayal and flight of the disciples. The moments of total darkness are symbolic of Jesus' death and time in the tomb.

The relighting of the Christ candle at the very end of the service symbolizes the hope of the coming Easter dawn and is a reminder of that light of Christ that "shines in the darkness, and no darkness has overcome it." (John 1).



# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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## PRELUDE AND ENTRY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Prelude

“Voluntary on Jefferson”

Dale Wood

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, between blessing and curse.

**All: We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

L: Like then, we often follow the ways of death.

**All: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.**

L: By our presence here, we are saying that we choose life.

**All: Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place.**

## UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O God,  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, because you have  
enlightened us by revealing the incorruptible light.  
Therefore, having finished the length of a day,  
and arriving at the beginning of the night,  
and since we now do not lack a light for the evening  
through your grace, we sanctify you and glorify you,  
through your only Son our Lord Jesus Christ, through  
whom to you with him be glory and might and honor  
with the Holy Spirit, now and always, and throughout the  
ages of the ages. Amen.

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

*\*Bold type denotes collective response.*

**\*HYMN**

“Christ at Table There with Friends”

NCH 227

**READING**

John 15:12-17

**PRAYERS OF RESTORATION**

The Rev. Craig Cowing

Sisters and brothers, Jesus shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God’s Spirit.

(silence)

Most merciful God, we confess that often our spirit has not been that of Jesus. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray, and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silence)

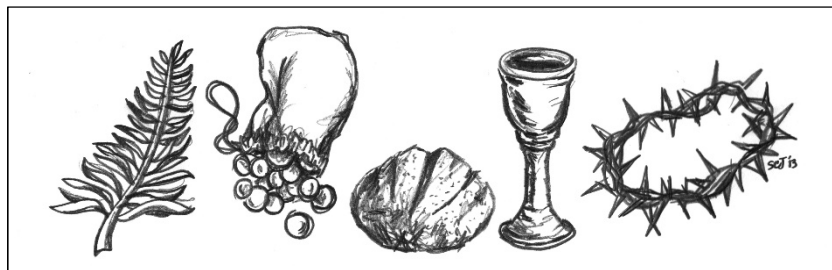
Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Jesus suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Anthem**

“Communion Invitation”

Joseph Martin

The Choir



## THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



### Invitation

### Prayer of Preparation and the Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, for our beloved brother Jesus who came to show us the Way, the Truth, and the Life so that we might share in your blessing and live in your abundance forever and ever. When we were hungry, without food, he healed us. When ignorant, he taught us. When we were sick, he touched us with healing. When enslaved to demons, he freed us. He embodied your rule all the way to certain death, yet he did not back down.

We pray for healing in Christ's name and spirit, as we also say together:

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.

## Words of Institution

### Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

*This church practices open Communion – all are welcome to participate, including children, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.*

*This evening we will receive Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup).  
Gluten-free bread is available. Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles.*

**Communion Music**    “What Wondrous Love is This”    arr. Richard A. Nichols  
Dave Hall, cello

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give you thanks, our God, for your holy name, which you have caused to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge and for the knowledge and faith and immortality that you have made known to us through Jesus your servant.**

**To us you have graciously given spiritual food and drink, and eternal life through your servant.**

**Remember your church, Lord, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in your love; and from the four winds gather the church that has been sanctified into your kingdom, which you have prepared for it, for yours is the power and the glory forever. Amen.**





## THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Crucifixion

Mark 15:16-32

Chris Sheehan

**HYMN**

**“Were You There?”**

PH179

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree...*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb...*

Death and Burial

Mark 15:33-47

Rev. Craig L. Cowing



**Anthem**

**“Pavanne”**

Gabriel Faure

The Bell Choir

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SILENT MEDITATION IN THE DARKNESS**

**RELIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**DEPARTURE IN SILENCE**

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## READERS:

Sarah DeGiovanni, Ben Rolfe  
Marge Murk, Anita Hawkins  
Jan LaCava, Will Rolfe  
Victoria Bower, Chris Sheehan

**ANTHEMS:** Performed by The Adult Choir



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

### GOOD FRIDAY

9am-4pm The **Chapel** will be open for prayer and reflection and will display Icon paintings on the themes of Holy Week and Easter.

1-4pm Rev. Craig will be **painting an Icon** in the Fiorilli Room; all are invited to visit.

### HOLY SATURDAY

**Family Gathering** 10:00 – 11:30am Chapin Hall

Family activities, Easter Egg Hunt and Worship

### EASTER SUNDAY

<b>Sunrise Service</b>	6:30am	Rose Hill Cemetery
<b>Breakfast</b>	7:15am	Chapin Hall
<b>Easter Worship</b>	10:00am	Sanctuary
<b>Fellowship Hour</b>	11:00am	Chapin Hall

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
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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)

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