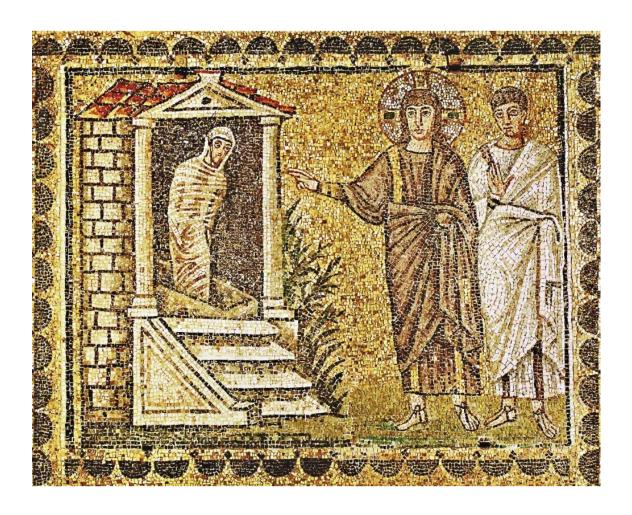
ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



April 2, 2017~ 10:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday

~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

"Lagrima"

Francisco Tarrega

Jared Maynard, guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Candy Smith

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

People: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Leader: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

People: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

*HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

NC (black) 43

Bold type denotes collective response

^{*}Please rise in body or in spirit.

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Compassionate God,

the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life

for all who long for you.

One breath from you and we are filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children.

Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,

that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom,

and what looks to us to be death

may be revealed as but sleep

before the emergence of new life.

To the praise and honor of Jesus Christ, 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**

NCH 769



MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

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

"We Will Keep a Place For You"

by John Corrado



SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-44

NT Pew Bible p104

SERMON

"Take Away the Stone"

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

"Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

NCH (black) 336

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, Rev. Cowing will come down the center aisle to collect your prayer cards.

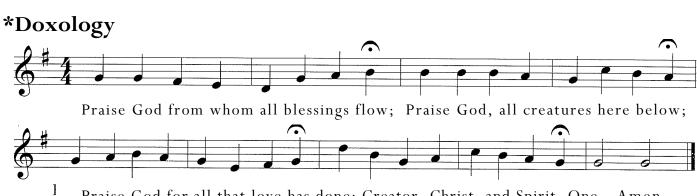
Invitation to the Offering

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

"Communion Invitation"
The Choir

Martin

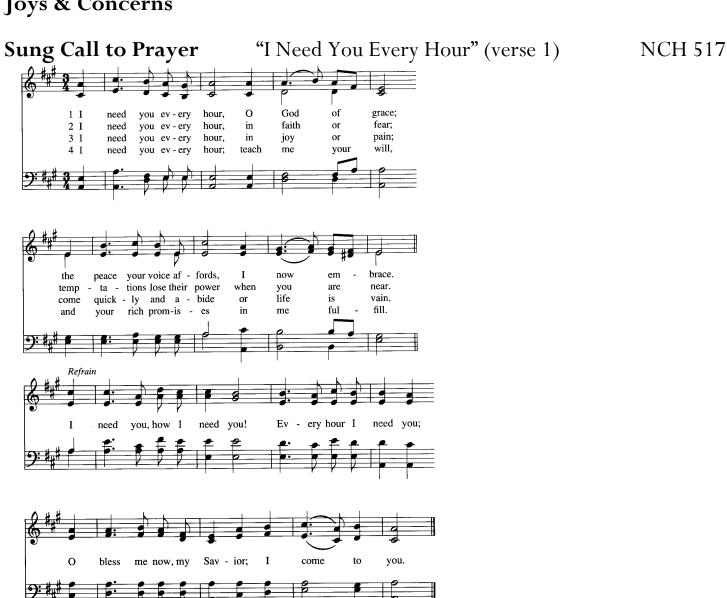


Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns



Pastoral and Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to "the last day" or "the world beyond this one", not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us. Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "Come out," Jesus calls, and his word unbinds us from the oppressive weight of our past and pushes away the rocks that close us off from love. We are made free in the spirit of God, and forgiven all our sins.

People: May God's name always be praised from our lips!

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, the congregation will be seated for Communion; the elements (bread and non-alcoholic grape juice) will be brought to each pew. Please wait until all have been served so that we may take the elements together. As you pass the trays to your neighbor, you may use the words "The bread of life" and "The cup of blessing." If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please raise your hand so that a Deacon may serve you.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, we celebrate the new life you give us in Christ. We thank you for the invitation to eat at his table and receive nourishment for the days ahead. Help us to bring the many blessings he has given to us into the world around us. 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

"Come, We Who Love God's Name"

NC (black)382

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

HOSPITALITY

LITURGIST

Candy Smith

COMMUNION SERVERS

Deb Copes, Nancy Parsons, Stephanie Heneghan Judy Graham, Wendy Ware, Jan LaCava

Lynn McKenna, Sue Monahan, Steve Smith

USHERS

Jean Goff

This week's Altar Flowers are given by Janet LaCava in loving memory of

her parents, Dorothy and Ronald Young

The Tower is lit this week by Gail and Natalie Tine in loving memory of Mary Francis Midkiff



TODAY 2nd Hour – Lutheran Reformation Presentation



All are welcome to join in today's Second Hour Presentation on the Lutheran and Anabaptist Reformations by Pastor Craig at 11:15 a.m. in Chapin Hall or the Parlor.

TODAY - Taco-in-a-Bag Fundraiser!

Visit us in Chapin Hall after worship to purchase delicious, freshly made tacos. Funds raised will benefit the High School Youth Group mission trip to Louisiana as well as future trips.



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 9 – Palm Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary **April 10 – 15 - Icon of the Day** – Visit the Weil Chapel during office hours for prayer and reflection. Craig will display a different Icon Painting each day during Holy Week.

April 13 – Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary

April 14 – Good Friday 9am-2pm Chapel open for prayer, and from 1-4pm Rev. Craig will be painting an Icon in Fiorilli Room, all are invited.

April 15 – Holy Saturday - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Egg Hunt, Family Activities and Worship in Chapin Hall.

April 16 – Easter Sunday - 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery, Breakfast will follow in Chapin Hall.

10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary. All are Welcome!



REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, April 16

The three choices this year will be:
Easter Lily in 61/2 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 Palm Sunday, April 9

Please fill out the information below

Make your checks payable to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church with "Easter flowers" in memo line and mail to:
Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.
You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.

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, Toys R Us, Walmart

The next ordering deadline (for cards not kept in inventory) will be on May 7.

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

April 2

April 3

April 4

April 5

April 6

April 7

7:00pm

7:30pm

7:00pm

7:00pm

6:00pm

7:30pm

9:30am

7:30pm

10:00am Worship

Childcare 9:30am

10:00am Church School

11:00am Youth Group Taco Sale

11:00am 2nd Hour Reformation

Women's AA

Hearing Voices

Music Together

Men's AA

Pilates

Choir

Boards & Committees

Bell Choir

Tamil School 4:00pm

<u>Monday</u>

Rms 22,23,25,26,27

<u>Sunday</u>

Rms 24,25,26

Chapin Hall

Sanctuary

Room 4

Parlor

Chapin Hall

Sanctuary

<u>Tuesday</u>

Fiorilli

Room 23

<u>Wednesday</u>

Chapin Hall Sanctuary

Thursday

Room 22

Chapin Hall

Friday

Middle School Youth Group Fiorilli/Parlor

April 8 <u>Saturday</u>

Middle School Youth Group Fiorilli/Parlor

Men's Bible Study Chapel 8:30am

Gregson Curtin 2

Bobbie Hawkins 4

Marsha Hoffman 4

Sherry Silkowski 4

7 Judy Frascarelli

7 Grace Hoffman

8 Meghan Montana

8 Isabel Donahue



Women Together

Calling all women who would like to join together for fun and fellowship. Save the second Thursday of the month and join in for an event or excursion.

On April 13th, we plan to go to The New Britain Museum of Art. Most likely we will find a lunch spot as well. We generally meet at the church at 12:30pm to car pool. If you are interested in being included contact Marge, Gladys or Steph.

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 <u>ccowing@rhccucc.org</u>

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 <u>lrpulling@icloud.com</u>