

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**April 3, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Easter**

# ~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

The Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Barry Wilcox

Leader: God's strong and loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

**All: Let the world stretch forth and grasp God's hands with joy.  
God's open hands are as the gate of righteousness.  
Let us enter in to God's abundant life and give thanks.  
In God's hands are new life, strength, and salvation.  
Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.**

## \*HYMN

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

New Century (black) 18

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

***Bold type denotes collective response***

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

O Risen Christ, be with us this day.

We recognize your wounded hands;

they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer,  
and to prevail in the power of love.

We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together  
into a deeper place of peace.

We are weary.

Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens  
as we empty our cares into your loving hands.

Extend to us your joy.

Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life!

Pour into us the freshness of your new life;

for you are our strength and our might.

How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us. 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,

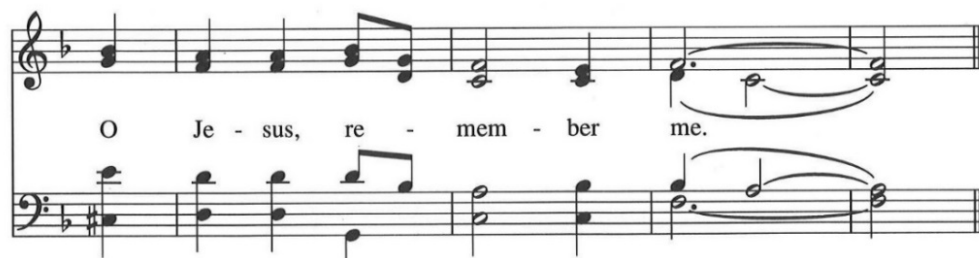
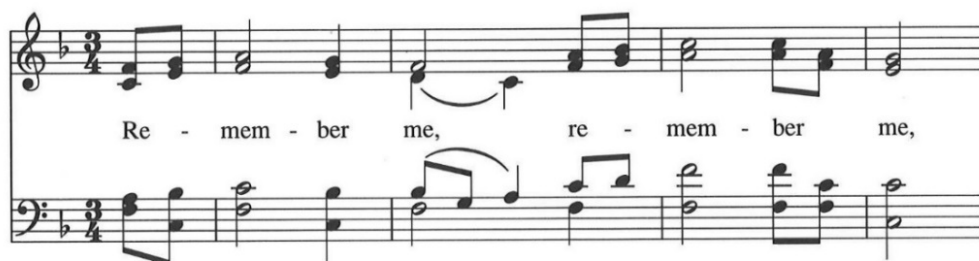
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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**



## WELCOME

## 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

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and suitable for children's voices. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

NT(Pew Bible) p101

## SERMON

"Believing Is Seeing"

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

## 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

"Ave Verum"

W.A. Mozart

The Choir

### \*Doxology

The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and suitable for a choir. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -". The second system contains the lyrics: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The notation includes treble and bass staves with various note values and rests.

#### Pastoral Prayer

### \*HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

New Century (black) 292

#### Prayer of Confession

Most gracious God, the Earth is yours with all of its fullness.  
your Creation is beautiful and complex in ways beyond our  
imagination.

If we follow its magnificent design, it leads us to You.

Yet we have been so distracted following the directions  
of the contaminated hands of the world—  
hands that have cut off, torn down, burned up,  
dug under, held back, built around, and moved out  
the gifts of the Earth, created for blessing.

**We have lost our way and your Creation groans for us to turn back to You.**

**We have been too complacent as we have witnessed the covetous few control too much at the expense of the desperate hungry multitudes.**

**Forgive us for not exercising the strength of our hands for the good of your Creation.**

**We seek the guidance of your hands to point us to your brightest light, salvation, and new life for your suffering Earth.**

**Through your Son, Jesus Christ, the Way.**

**Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

The risen Christ is in our midst, and God's forgiveness causes us to rejoice in God's glory.

Jesus' nail-scarred hands have endowed within us fullness of grace.

Let us go forth, knowing that we are truly forgiven.

**Amen.**

## **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, you have refreshed us at this table. We thank you for the strength and grace to meet the challenges of this day. Prepare our hearts as we go out into the world to serve you, knowing that Jesus is with us. We pray this 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

## “My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff”

NC (black) 418

## BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

## “Allegretto from Suite in D Major”

attributed to Leonardo Vinci

# LITURGIST

Barry Wilcox

# USHERS

Victoria Bower, Stephanie Heneghan, Dave Sageman, and Steve Smith

## COMMUNION SERVERS

Michael Bower, Nancy Parsons, Deb Copes

Cheryl Hummel, Bill Timrud, Jeanne Timrud

*Today's Flowers are donated by the DeGiovanni Family  
in loving memory of Sarah's parents, Jan and Jim Gordon*

## LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. April 10

11:00am Second Hour

# Hearts Over Latin America (HOLA) Luncheon

5:00pm High School Youth Group

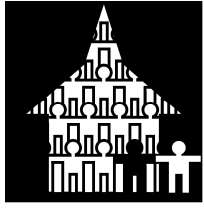
Sun. April 17

10:00am One Great Hour Offering

11:00am Permaculture Garden Presentation

## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Join us **TODAY** for a **preparatory session** following worship, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

with the Rev. Craig and our Deacon(s). We welcome those interested in inquiring and exploring, as well as those who know they wish to join the church. If you'd like to be part of the process, but cannot attend, please speak to Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.

### **HOLA Second Hour Luncheon April 10<sup>th</sup>**

On **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, Hearts Over Latin America (HOLA) from UCONN and the Missions Board will host a 2<sup>nd</sup> hour luncheon to share their recent service work experiences. **Tickets** are available in Chapin Hall Sundays after worship. They are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under (5 yrs old and under are free). Please RSVP to Kari McCaw by April 3<sup>rd</sup> so we can plan for food. Hope to see you there! kariblaise@hotmail.com or 860-803-4852



### **CELEBRATE SPRING AT OUR APRIL BREAKFAST & RE-MAKER'S FAIR**

Saturday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>** 8am-10:30am - Adults \$7.00, Kids (4-12yrs) \$5.00, under 4yrs – free  
Egg Strata ≈ Pancakes ≈ French ≈ Toast Cereal ≈ Bacon ≈ Sausage ≈ Juice ≈ Milk ≈ Coffee

### **RE-MAKER'S FAIR AND EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

"Remake, Reuse, Rejoice!" 11am-3pm (after the Pancake Breakfast).  
The Re-Maker's Fair will feature creatively hand-crafted items made from re-used or up-cycled materials, saved from the waste stream to become beautiful or useful objects. Information on local recycling and other environmental efforts will also be available. Join us in celebration of our stewardship of the earth! For more information, contact Anita Hawkins or the church office at: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)



*Easter Flowers*

*were donated in **Loving Memory of Richard Boberg,**  
by Gail and Dave Hall.*

*We apologize for the omission in last week's bulletin.*





## **FOODSHARE** Walk **against hunger**

### **Foodshare Walk Against Hunger, Sunday May 1st at 2:00 p.m.**

Time: 12:30 p.m. check-in / 2:00 p.m. Walk begins

Place: The Hartford's Liam E. McGee Memorial Park, 140 Garden Street, Hartford  
\*free parking is available at 690 Asylum Ave.

Spread the word! We have RHCC T-Shirts FREE for anyone who comes to WALK with us on May 1. The T-shirt ordering deadline is April 10. Registration forms are available in Chapin Hall after worship.

#### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

High School Youth: Sunday, April 10 - 5 to 7pm

*"Who Are These People?"*

We will take this time to get to know Pastor Craig, Steph Heneghan, and Georgette Huie a little better and they will get to know you! Bring \$3 for dinner.

High School and Middle School Youth Sunday, April 24 - 11am *Taco in a Bag fundraiser*

*THANKS— It was wonderful to be back for Palm Sunday services after 3 months of healing. I want to thank all who sent Christmas Cards and get well cards and notes. It was a comfort to know that many of you were thinking of and praying for me during my surgery and recovery. It also was a joy to be greeted back to worship by so many. I felt I had come home.  
Sincerely, Joan Tennyson*

**One Great Hour of Sharing** as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. The offering will be collected on **Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**.



## 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*

**Today** is also the ordering deadline for cards not kept in inventory. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of today. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup next Sunday, May 1.

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, Wendys
- 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

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.

See **Gail Hall** at 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 3

10:00am **Worship**  
11:00am **Coffee & Fellowship**  
4:00pm Siragu Tamil School

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Chapin Hall  
Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27

### April 4

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

### Monday

Fiorilli  
Chapin Hall  
Loft

### April 5

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**  
7:00pm Hearing Voices

### Tuesday

Fiorilli  
Room 25

### April 6

6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline  
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

### Wednesday

Chapin Hall  
Choir Room

### April 7

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

### Thursday

Rm 25  
Chapin Hall

### April 8

### Friday

### April 9

10am Bonsai Society Workshop  
11:00am Private Event  
7:00pm Bonsai Society Meeting

### Saturday

Rm 45,47  
Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall



April 4	Bobbie Hawkins
	Marsha Hoffman
	Sherry Silkowski
April 7	Judy Frascarelli
	Grace Hoffman
April 8	Meghan Montana
	Isabel Donahue
April 9	Sam DGiovanni



### **Ruby Bennett Turns 100!**

On April 16<sup>th</sup> Ruby Bennett celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Most of her family is visiting for the event and have planned a small luncheon at a restaurant in town. We will have a card in Chapin Hall for everyone to sign, so we can all wish her many more healthy, happy years.

**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)