

~Easter Sunrise Service~

April 5, 2015

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

GATHERING HYMN

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Printed in Bulletin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elaine Some

What wondrous love is this!

We will sing.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia. Christ is risen and the Lord is here.

Christ is risen and the Spirit is with us. Alleluia!

Alleluia. Christ is risen for God has worked wonders.

Christ is risen in glory and power forever. Alleluia!

HALLELUJAH ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

THE GOOD NEWS

John 20:1-18

AN EASTER MEDITATION

“Will You Proclaim It?”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,
maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky,
and midwife of every life that emerges from the womb of the earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ.

Born of the womb of Mary,
he was the first of our kind to live fully the destiny
for which we were all created.

Healing the broken and serving the poor,
liberating the burdened and reconciling heaven and earth,
his every action unmasked the evil that waits to enslave us all.

Hell, wounded at its heart and filled with bitterness and rage,
struck back in fury unrestrained.

Jesus was condemned by the religious
and crucified by the state.

He died forsaken, a man of sorrows.

No pain in our hearts or in our planet is unfamiliar to him
for he was cast into the jaws of death.

Redeeming even death,

God raised Jesus from the grave
and with wounded hands he embraces us.

He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present
and there is now nothing beyond the reach of his healing touch.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who raises us from the waters of death,
breathes new life into us
and declares us to be God's beloved.

And we believe Christ came that all may have life.

Violence and hatred have done their worst
but Christ's reign of peace will conquer.

All who trust in Christ,
though they die, shall be lifted to life in all its fullness.

The grip of suffering will be forever broken,
and death shall have no dominion.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive Communion, including children, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.

This morning we will receive Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup, which holds unfermented grape juice). Gluten-free bread and juice are also offered.

Invitation

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

All are welcome at the table where this joyful feast is celebrated.
We welcome the spirit of those who celebrate Jesus' resurrection
all around the world, even as we celebrate together here.

We welcome all kindred in Christ. Alleluia.

Let there be peace among us as we share the bread and the cup.

Amen.

This bread is a gift from heaven brought to us to light our path
and to warm us on life's journey.

This bread represents both brokenness
and the promise of wholeness to come.

This bread, Jesus said, is his broken body
and he invites us to remember him in his life, ministry, and passion.
In so doing we remember one another
and Jesus' reconciling love and light meant for sharing.

Thanks be to God.

This is the cup which also fortifies us with God's light and warmth.

The cup represents the blessings for life's journey that God gives.

This cup, Jesus said, is the new covenant in my blood.

Drink it and remember him in his life, mission, and life-giving ministry.

In so doing we remember our own life and mission.

Let us share our lives in the reconciling love and peace God gives.

Let us forever sing our praises!

Let us taste and see that Lord is good!

Prayer of Preparation

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Institution: Recalling the Story

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music

"Hallelujah"

Caribbean Melody

Please join in singing the Hallelujah as you come forward and receive communion. You are welcome to take a rhythm instrument and join in the celebration!

Musical notation for the first line of the song. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, and E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Musical notation for the second line of the song. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

With grateful hearts we praise you, O God,
for your great goodness in the gift of Christ.
We give thanks for the life we receive,
for the thirst that is renewed,
and the hope that is tasted.
By your Spirit, help us to be courageous,
blessing, feeding, giving, and serving,
that your love might be shared abundantly. Amen.

The Practice of 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

“Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”
(verses 1, 3, 5)

Printed in Bulletin

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP LEADERS

Judy Graham, Deacon

Dave Hall, Trumpet

Gail Hall, Clarinet

Jason Hall, Trombone

Elaine Somes, Deacon

The Rev. Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor

Bulletin cover artwork and design by Nancy Edwards.

*Today's communion bread was baked by the children, youth and families of
RHCC. The gluten free bread was baked by Barry Wilcock.*

**Please join us for breakfast following the Sunrise Service in Chapin Hall
and Easter Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

805 Old Main Street

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community