

ROCKY HILL
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727
An Open and Affirming Community



MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17, 2014 ~ 7:00 p.m.

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~

PRELUDE

"Aria"

setting by Dale Wood

The Jubilate Handbell Choir

tune "Via Dolorosa"

ENTRY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

New Century (black), 226

*PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

**O God whose name is Mercy, Creator of all the mysteries,
grant to us this night faith in the mystery of the cross
and in the life that is given there.**

**Grant to us whose world is darkened
trust in the light that endures.**

**Grant to us who come with prayers
enough silence in the heart
that the voice of mercy can be heard.**

**This we ask as disciples of Christ, crucified yet risen -
Christ who is Bread for the world,
Vine for the branches,
Lamb for the end of time. Amen.**

READING

Gospel of John, selected verses from chs. 14 & 15

SOLO

"Pie Jesu" from 'Requiem'

by Gabriel Faure

Melody Hall, Soprano

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Bold type denotes collective response.*

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Meghan D. Young

Like Jesus' first disciples, we who are his body now
betray the life to which he calls us.

Like Jesus' first disciples, we deny and flee, we fail to stay awake
for the demands of love, for the work of justice and mercy.

**Create in us clean hearts, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

Let us now offer to God in this silence the confessions of our hearts:

(A silence is kept.)

For the wounds of the world that have been our doing,
for all we have done and left undone
that has brought pain and brokenness to your creation,
we ask forgiveness from you, O God, and from each other.

**Create in us clean hearts, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

(A silence is kept.)

Hear the promise of the gospel, that anyone in Christ is a new creation altogether.
In God's grace we are held,
in God's love we are redeemed,
in God's mercy we are forgiven, healed and made new.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Hymn** "Christ at Table There with Friends" New Century (black), 227
Verses 1 and 4

Invitation

In the city of Jerusalem, the Holy City where the people of God lived their lives and awaited a savior, it was Passover;

and Jesus was there.

The people of Israel had once more come together to mark their calling, to remember their deliverance, to remember by the light of ancient story that they were the beloved of God;

and Jesus was there, with disciples, with friends.

They came to a table in an upper room. And there, on the eve of Calvary, they would share this Passover, the last one they would ever have with him... the last one, with a new instruction:

“Do this in remembrance of me,” he said,

“in remembrance of me.

From now on, mark your calling by the sharing of this meal.

And whenever you do, my life and my spirit

will be there with you.”

Broken, poured out, given and shared.... a mystery. A mystery alive.

A new sacrifice, an ancient truth:

God saves. “Do this in remembrance of me.”

Beloved of God, let us come to our own table this night

in remembrance and in trust,

with faith in our God whose grace feeds us, whose love frees us.

Prayer of Preparation and the Lord’s Prayer

...This we ask in Christ’s name, 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 evening we will receive Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup).
Beginning with the choir, please come forward by the center aisle and return to
your seats by the side aisles.*

Communion music "O Sacred Head" Leo Hassler, arr by Richard Nichols
Dave Hall, Cello

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn (seated) "Christ at Table There with Friends"

In the garden Jesus bows.

Harsh the cry that rises now:

"Father, some way let it be!

Take this cup from me,

take this cup from me."

"Yet, your will, not mine, be done.

For this purpose I am come.

Thus to make all people new

I take this cup from you.

I take this cup from you.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

At the Table Mark 14: 17-21

Mount of Olives Mark 14:26-31

Gethsemane Mark 14:32-42

Betrayal and Arrest Mark 14:43-50

Anthem 'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow' W Bradbury/ W. Tappan

Before the High Priest Mark 14:53-65

Denial Mark 14:66-72

Before Pilate Mark 15:1-15

Crucifixion Mark 15:16-32

Anthem "Kyrie" from 'Memorial' Rene Clausen

Death and Burial Mark 15:33-47

HYMN (*seated*)

“Were You There?”

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...

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SILENT MEDITATION IN THE DARKNESS

RELIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

DEPARTURE IN SILENCE

SCRIPTURE READERS: Harry Schmidt, Hannah Fuller, Lisa Eleck, Mark Sheehan
Chris Sheehan, Marge Murk, and Barry Wilcock

ANTHEMS: The Adult Choir

HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY 5:30pm Chapin Hall
Meal and walk through Jesus's last words

HOLY SATURDAY 3:00 – 5:00pm Chapin Hall
All Church Gathering
Family activities, Easter Egg Hunt and worship

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service 5:40am Rose Hill Cemetery
Breakfast 6:25am Chapin Hall
Easter Worship 10:00am Sanctuary

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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 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 to 12:00

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

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka brenda@rhccucc.org

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Meghan D. Young meghan@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org