

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**July 21, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Release from Covenant**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Please join us 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.

Please include your full address, phone number and email 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.



~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Andonucci

Leader: Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?

**People: We will throw open the doors to our hearts.
We will delight in his presence.**

Leader: When God shows up, surprising things can happen.

**People: We will make ourselves ready.
We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.**

Leader: Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!

People: So let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise—

All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN

“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”

NCH 6

**please rise in body or in spirit*

Bold denotes unison response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Wonderful, surprising God, you bring us hope when we are discouraged,
peace when we are anxious, and joy when we are least expecting it.

Help us, now, to rest in your presence.

Be our welcome guest not only here but everywhere we go this week.

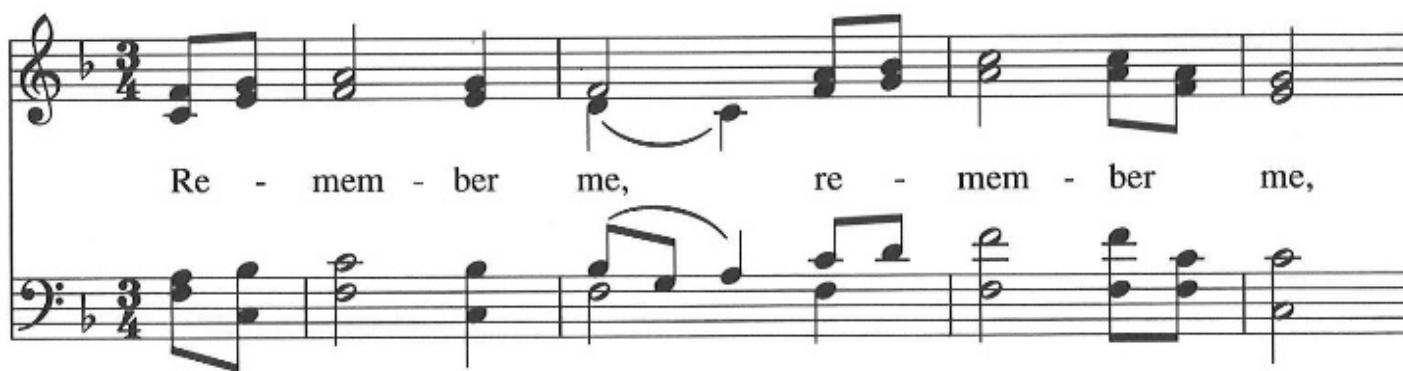
Show us how to receive all that you have to offer us.

May we remain open even to what seems too incredible to be true,
for with you, so much more is possible than we even imagine.

We pray this in the name of Jesus the 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

NC 773



Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

The first system of musical notation is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The lyrics "Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me," are written below the treble staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a slight rise and fall in each phrase. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.



O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It also features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with one flat. The lyrics "O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me." are written below the treble staff. The melody for "O Je - sus," is more melodic, and "re - mem - ber me." features a long, sustained note in the treble staff, with a corresponding sustained bass line.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Georgette Huie

ANTHEM

“The Earth Adorned”
The Choir

Waldemar

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 7:1-15

Old Testament p338

SERMON

“The Only Way Out Is Forward”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“I Want Jesus to Go with Me”

NCH 490

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will collect the prayer request cards.

Invitation to the Offering

For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Offertory Anthem

“Steal Away”
The Choir

Spiritual, arr. McKeever

***Doxology**



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**

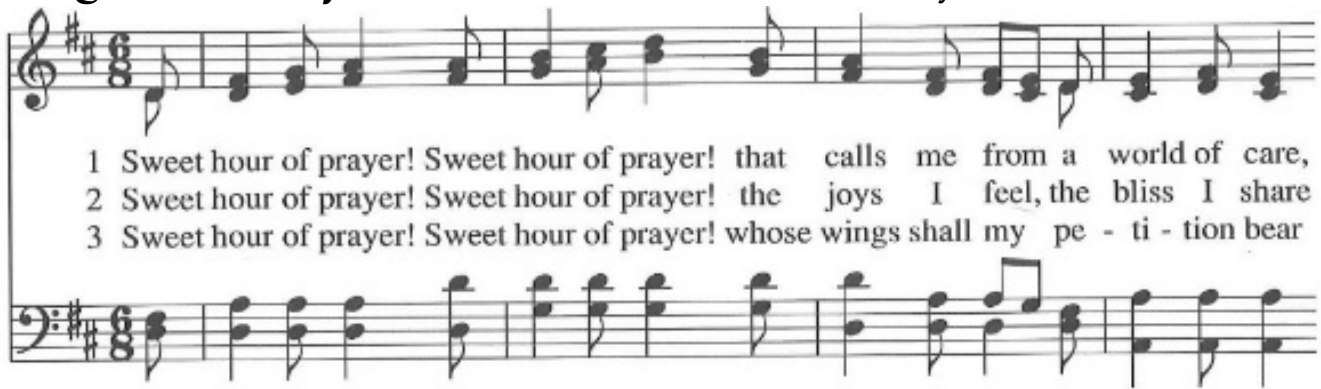
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” verse 1

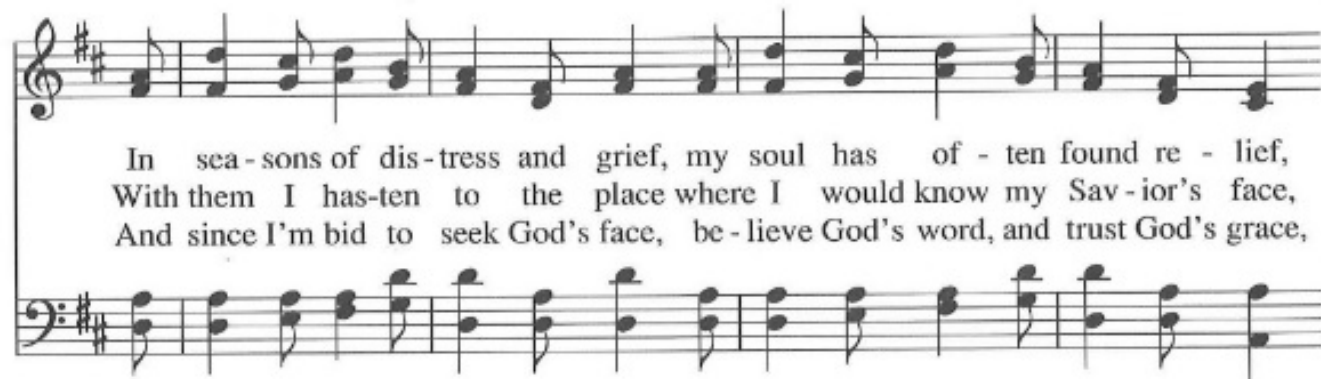
NCH505



1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known,
of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

SERVICE OF RELEASE

LEADER On June 28, 2015, this local church called The Rev. Craig L. Cowing to serve as Pastor.

MINISTER I thank Rocky Hill Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last four years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

PEOPLE We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

MINISTER I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

***VOWS OF RELEASE**

All stand

LEADER Do you, the members and friends of Rocky Hill Congregational Church release Craig from the duties of Pastor?

PEOPLE We do, with the help of God.

LEADER Do you offer your encouragement for his/her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

PEOPLE We do, with the help of God.

LEADER Do you, Craig release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

MINISTER I do, with the help of God.

LEADER Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

MINISTER I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE CONFERENCE/ ASSOCIATION

Church officers may come forward. A representative of the Association or Conference addresses them.

UCC REPRESENTATIVE

On behalf of The Hartford Association of the Connecticut Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

OFFICERS Thanks be to God.

LEADER Let us pray.

***PRAYER**

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”

NCH 382

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Old Irish Benediction”
The Choir

McKeever

***POSTLUDE**

LITURGIST

Michael Andonucci

USHERS

Wendy Ware, Sue Chatfield and Kim Burghoff

HOSPITALITY

InReach/ Council/ Worship

*Today’s Altar Flowers are in Loving Memory of my mother Elizabeth
by Anne Louise Griswold*

*Thank you for attending today’s Service. All are invited to remain in Chapin Hall for a
reception in honor of Rev. Craig L. Cowing and Anita Hawkins.*

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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Burger King, Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's.
- Restaurants: Bonafish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Ace Hardware, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Target, Total Wine, Walmart.
- Grocery: ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market.

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on August 25 (with delivery on September 1). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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.

Think SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

July 21

10:00am Worship

9:30am Childcare

11am Reception for Craig & Anita

July 22

7:00pm Women's AA

July 23

7:00pm Exec Council(tent)

July 24

7:00pm Exec Council(tent)

July 25

7pm Cedar Hollow

7:30pm Men's AA

July 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Set up for Worship in Chapin Hall

Sunday

Chapin Hall

Room 4

Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Fiorilli

Wednesday

Fiorilli

Thursday

Fiorilli

Chapin Hall

Friday



22 Holli Bacon
24 Janet Hansen
27 C J Mason

Backpack Drive – now through August 11th. Drop off new school supplies on Sunday or during office hours! Thank you!



Summer Office Hours:

The church office will be closed on Fridays in July & August.

The office will be open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The best time to drop off items for Food Bank, Backpack Drive, or Fair; is Monday through Thursday, 9:00am – Noon.

If the outer door is locked (for safety) during office hours, please ring the buzzer or call the main number posted on the door.

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: www.RockyHillUCC.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 ccowing@rhccucc.org

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: Steve Smith admin@rhccucc.org