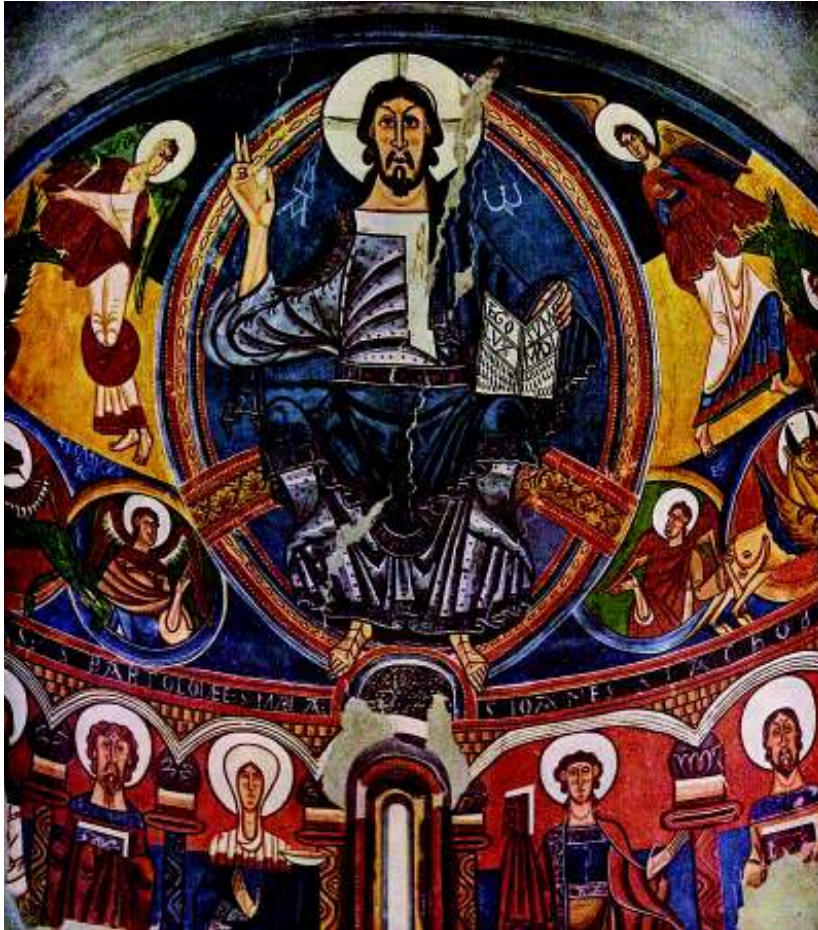


**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



(Romanesque fresco, apse of Sant Climent de Taüll, Catalonia, 1123)

**November 25, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ**

~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 downstairs 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.*

MINISTRY MOMENT

PRELUDE

“Simple Gifts”

American Folk Hymn,
arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don-Tomis Leonhardt

(adapted from Psalm 132)

L: For God has chosen Zion;
and has desired it for a habitation:

**All: This is God's resting place forever;
here God will reside with us!**

L: God will abundantly bless our provisions and will satisfy the poor with bread.

**All: God's priests will be clothed with salvation,
and the faithful will shout for joy.**

***Bold type** denotes collective response*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

Eternal Monarch,
You who rule over all of us with justice and care,
We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule,
That we do not always participate in your reign of equity and
integrity,
That we have not followed the example you set forth.
Instead we often place our trust in leaders who let us down,
And in our own flawed leadership of others.
Lead us, Christ our Sovereign,
And set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do.
We ask 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**

“Shepherd Lead Me”

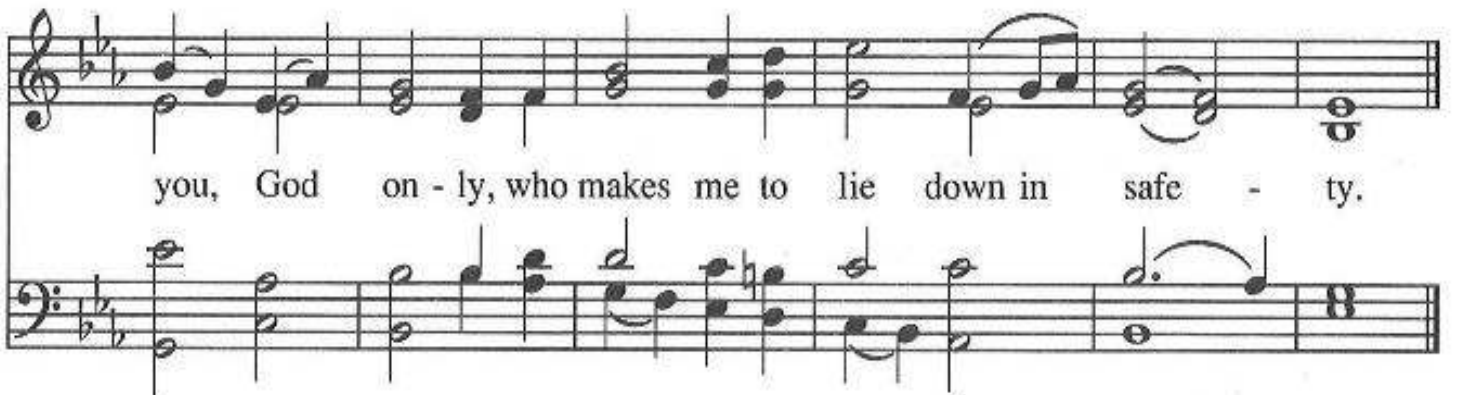
NCH775



Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,



make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,



you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Georgette Huie

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



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.

ANTHEM “All Praise, Eternal Son, to Thee” Thomas Tallis, arr. Bullard
The Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 1:4b-8 Pew Bible NT p.

SERMON “Ruler of All” Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN** “Bring Many Names” NCH 11

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the minister will come down 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 “Sanctus” Franz Schubert
The Choir

*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

“On Eagle’s Wings”

NCH774

And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

NCH 43

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Deo Gracia, arr. Schalk

LITURGIST

Don-Tomis Leonhardt

USHERS

Doretta Andonucci, Dave Sageman, Wendy Ware, Chris Sheehan

HOSPITALITY

Nancy Harlow & Anita Hawkins

*In
Loving
Memory*

*Today's Altar Flowers are given In Loving Memory of
Charles Pawlich, Jr. (11/25/1929 - 7/10/1983)
by Rich, Mary & Rick.*

COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP – JOIN US!

Please consider assisting at a coffee hour. Come at 9:45am and bring one item you feel the folks will enjoy, go down at the start of the final hymn to smile a warm welcome and pour coffee. Stay around to help clean up. Be a part of the Coffee Hour Team. Thanks, Steph



Our pledging ministry hopes you took our challenge to invest God's gifts by using our reverse collection in a way or ways that are meaningful to you. We will want to hear how you planted the seed money (how did you put it to use), any results or feedback you received, and whether there was something God taught you through the process or through someone you interacted with. Paying it forward can multiply the good we practice.



We need YOU to help us fill the pews for Lessons and Carols!!

In recent years we have worked hard to fill the church for our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols. What can you do to help? Here's a list:

- Come. Please come.
- Share our event on Facebook when you see the announcement/invitation
- Take a few postcard invitations to send to family, neighbors, friends and church members you haven't seen in a while. Or just give them a call. Lessons and Carols is a beautiful tradition. Help us share it with others! Thank you.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Sunday,
December 9th, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

We have been celebrating this annual service of Christian worship for many years and welcome all to share in the beautiful story of the birth of Christ as told in word and music. Reception follows the service. All are welcome to attend.

A free-will offering will be taken to donate to our town food bank.

Congratulations: \$2 Million and Counting!!!

On Sunday, November 4, we officially passed the \$2M mark in scrip sales. This is an amazing milestone. Since 2009, YOU have bought two million dollars of scrip yielding almost \$134,000 of income to the church ***just by using scrip to buy the things you were going to buy anyway.*** This amazing accomplishment would not have been possible without the countless hours and faithful dedication that Dave and Gail Hall devote to the scrip program. In honor of them and other scrip volunteers, we are asking everyone to consider making a gift of scrip to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. Just stop by the scrip table (or contact Dave or Gail directly) and let them know how much you wish to donate—any amount is fine. Thanks to your generosity, we already have \$360 donated on November 11th when we announced this in church. At the end of November, we will add it all up and donate the appropriate amount of grocery gift cards to the food bank.

Your scrip purchases help underwrite all the ministries of our church. Keep up the good work! Think SCRIP.

Remember and honor your loved ones at Christmas. You may take your plants home or leave them to decorate the Sanctuary. Your memorial will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23rd, the fourth Sunday of Advent. Ordering deadline is Thursday, December 13th. Order forms will be available at the church and in the December issue of the Church Mouse. You may call Kim Burgdoff with questions at 860 563-3287.



Looking ahead to December, a time of Joyful preparation!

Throughout December: Mitten Tree
collecting hats, gloves, scarves for those in need.



Sunday, December 2, 10am – Consecration Sunday; prayerful reflection on giving of Time, Talent and Treasure during worship.

Sunday, December 2th, 5pm – 7 pm Advent Family Night
Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and a carol-sing, as during this season of Advent we wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Bring a salad, a main dish, or a dessert (a true pot luck!) This is an intergenerational event for the entire church family and friends.



Sunday, December 9, 10am – March of the Toys



Sunday, December 9, 4pm – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30pm – Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel

Saturday, December 15, 10:30am – 2pm – Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 16, 2pm – Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 24, 5pm & 11pm – Christmas Eve Worship Services

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: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Walmart
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market

Today (November 25) is the ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 2. After today, the next order will be placed in two weeks, on December 9 (with delivery on Dec. 16). 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. 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

November 25

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
11:20am *Lessons & Carols Rehearsals*

November 26

7:00pm Women's AA

November 27

9:30am **NEWSLETTER MAILING**
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

November 28

7:00pm *L&C Choir*
7:30pm **Choir**

November 29

7:30pm Men's AA

November 30

9am-Noon Office open

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26

Monday

Fiorilli

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Sanctuary

Wednesday

Sanctuary
Sanctuary

Thursday

Chapin Hall

Friday



25	Holly Alessi
25	Jeannie Alessi
25	Will McKenna
30	Gael Curtin



Sunday, December 2

Consecration Sunday is December 2, when we will ask you to support our many worthy ministries. We ask you to prayerfully think about what you are passionate, how that passion extends to our church and how you will give of your time, talent and treasure. This church has a very special place in my heart and I am passionate and proud about all that we do. Let's find warmth in the passion of our ministries together. Sincerely, Deb Copes.

Advent Family Night Sunday, December 2th, 5pm – 7 pm, in Chapin Hall



Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and a carol-sing, as during this season of Advent we wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Bring a salad, a main dish, or a dessert (a true pot luck!) This is an intergenerational event for the entire church family and friends.



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