

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



MALACHI 3:1

**"SEE, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER,
WHO WILL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME.
THEN SUDDENLY THE LORD YOU ARE SEEKING WILL COME TO HIS
TEMPLE; THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT,
WHOM YOU DESIRE, WILL COME," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.**

**December 9, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent**

~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

SOLO

“Come Unto Him”

Melody Hall, soprano; Dave Hall, cello

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steph Heneghan

L: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

L: Prepare the way for the Lord:

All: A just and peaceful path!

L: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

All: For the glory of God!

*HYMN

“Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

NCH 103

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response

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

Holy God,

**We long for your peace, and trust in your promise;
we hear your call to turn toward you,
to change our lives and welcome you in.**

**Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace,
that our worship together
may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.**

**In the Name of the One who is coming,
we pray as he 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**

NCH 774

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

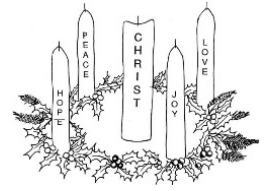
make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,

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



LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

The Advent candles will be lit this morning by Will and Emily McKenna



One: We gather around the Advent wreath today knowing that
we are not perfect,
that we all make mistakes and do bad things.
Only Jesus obeyed God fully.
Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live.
Jesus gives us peace.

Two: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God
into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace,
For Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.”
Christ’s name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.”
The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day.

(The candle of Peace is lit)

One: Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace
to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives.
We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do,
Show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely,
so that they too may have peace.

All: Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

MARCH OF THE TOYS



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

“Out of the Wintry Gloom”
The Choir

Richard Shephard

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-7

Pew Bible OT p889

SERMON

“Back to Basics”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

NCH128

OFFERING OF GIFTS

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

Invitation to the Offering

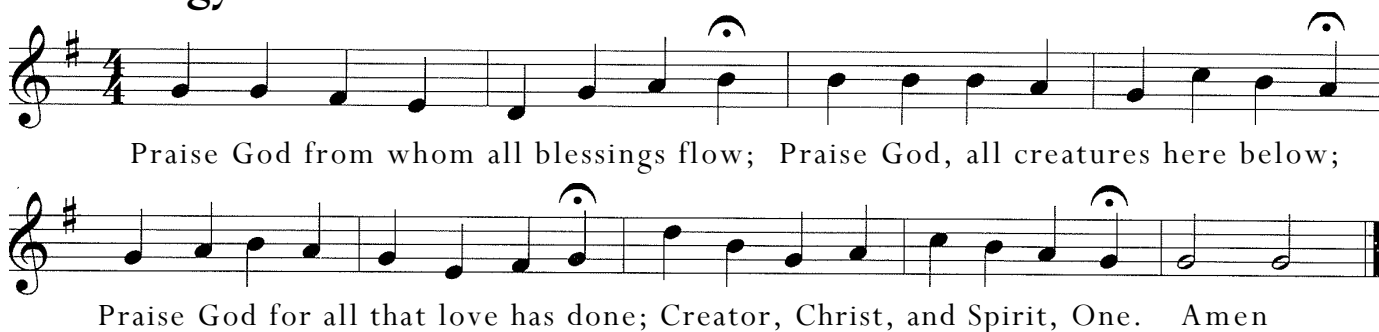
For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Offertory

“Carol of the Bells”
Handbell Choir

arr. Mark Schweitzer

*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

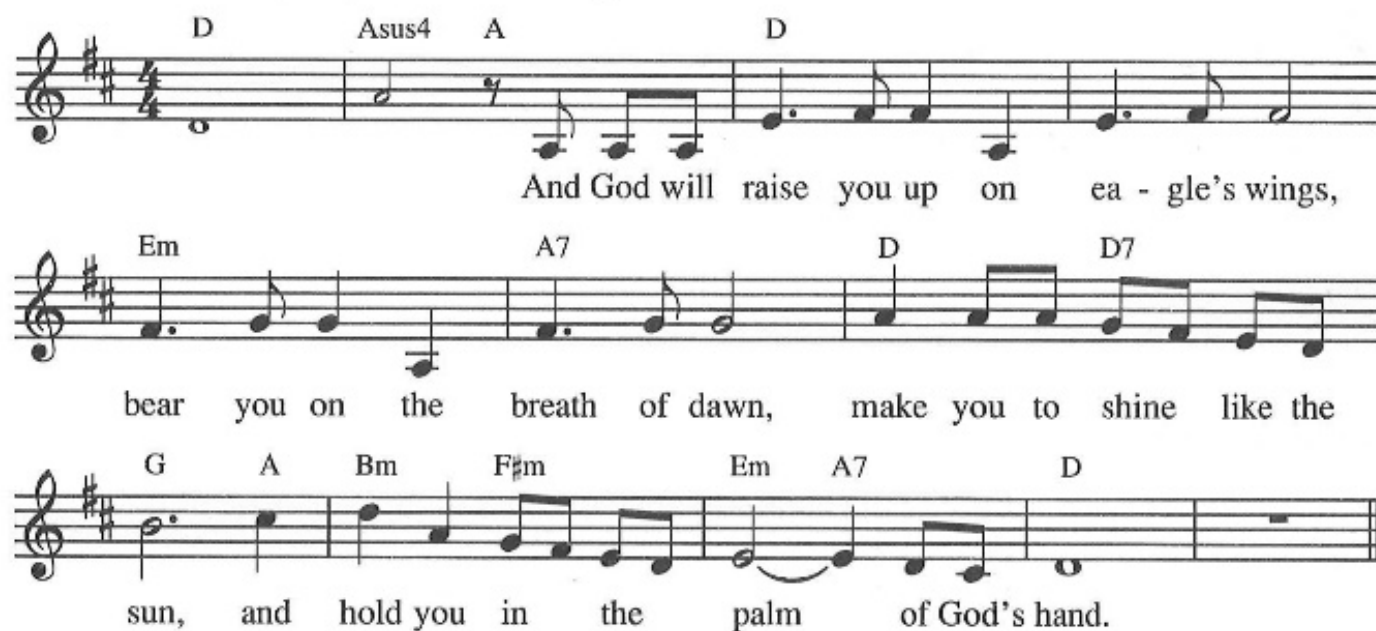
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 Prayer

*HYMN

“We Hail You God’s Anointed”

NCH 104

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

LITURGIST

Steph Heneghan

USHERS

HOSPITALITY

Ruth Jensen and Nancy Harlow

The Tower is lit in honor of Pasquale Accardo by Deanne Accardo

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - 4:00 p.m.

This special Christmas service is held by Christians around the world to celebrate the story of Christ's coming, in words and music. The service reflects our desire to deepen your experience of Christmas. There is no admission charge, though a free-will offering will be taken to support the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. As always, a lovely reception will follow. We encourage you to attend today and bring a friend! Sincerely, Your Music Committee.



Join us on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Our Blue Christmas service is held to acknowledge that the holiday season is difficult for many who suffer from depression or who have experienced loss. December is the darkest month of the year, and the coinciding with a joyous holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings.



March of the Toys! – Sunday, December 9

We'll collect unwrapped toys on Sunday, December 9. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

WORSHIP & EVENTS



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

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

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

Thursday, December 13, Christmas Poinsettia Flower orders due

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



Sunday, December 16, 10am – Worship, Covenant to Care gifts due

Sunday, December 16, 2pm – Christmas Caroling to Homebound;

Sunday, December 23, 10am Worship



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



Gift-giving to those in need through Covenant to Care, Mitten Tree, Toy Drive and Diaper Drive, throughout December.

Remember to Honor your Loved Ones

With Christmas Poinsettias



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Sunday, December 23 through the New Year.



The cost is \$14 per plant.

Ordering deadline is Thursday, December 13.

Forms are available in Chapin Hall and outside the church office.

Caring Team Ministry

Poinsettias will be delivered to church members who are no longer able to worship with us; some by the Carolers on Dec 16th and others by volunteers during the following week. If you can help bring the message of the season to others, please, sign up with the Caring Team Ministry on the 'Big Board' in Chapin Hall or speak to Wendy, Don or Steph H.



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 (December 9) 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 16. This is the last special order before Christmas. After today, the next order will be placed on January 20 (with delivery on Jan.27). 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

December 9

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:15am **Church School**
11:00am **Coffee Hour**

4:00pm Lessons & Carols
5:30pm Reception L&Carols
5:30pm **HS Youth Party**

December 10

Cookie Walk Baking all week
7:00pm Women's AA

December 11

7:00pm **Council Meeting**
7:00pm Hearing Voices

December 12

9:00am **Breakfast Club**
6:30pm **Blue Christmas Service**
7:30pm **Choir**

December 13

7:30pm Men's AA

December 14

Newsletter Deadline

9:00am **Cookie Baking, Set Up** Chapin Hall
10:00am **Care Team Flowers Delivery** Narthex

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Room 25
Chapin Hall

Sanctuary

Chapin Hall
Fiorilli

Monday

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 23

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop
Chapel
Choir Loft

Thursday

Chapin Hall

Friday



6	Jennifer Smith
9	Amy Murk
14	Dave Hall
14	David Bradstreet

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE DECEMBER 12 7PM CHAPEL ALL ARE WELCOME
--

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

18th Annual Cookie Walk Saturday, December 15,

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Chapin Hall

Come fill a tin with homemade cookies and treats!

(Snow Date – December 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)



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