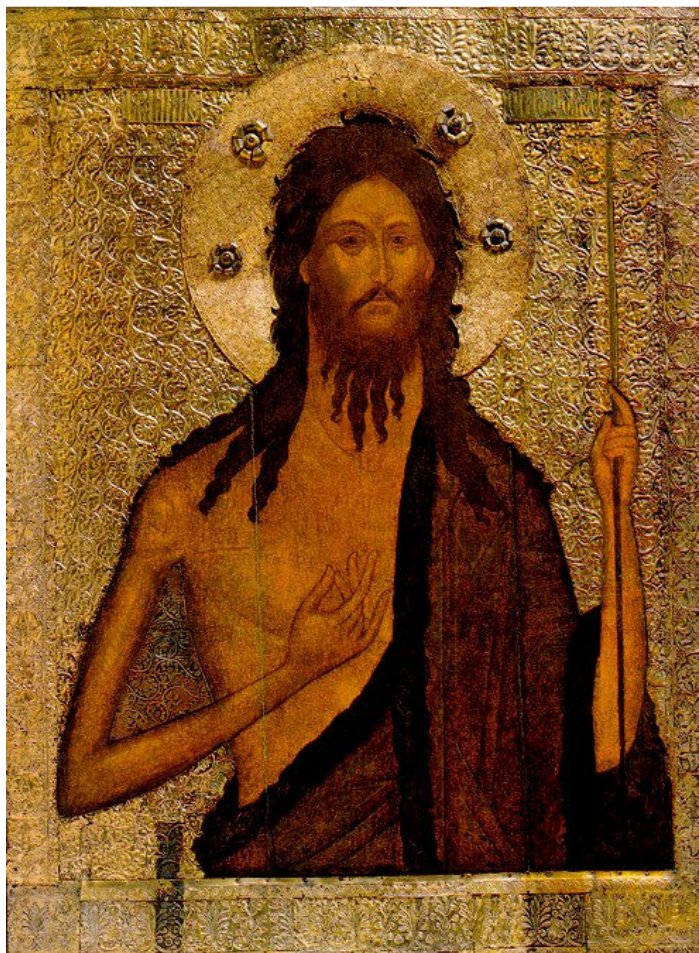


**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**December 16, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday of Advent**



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

Holy God of Advent,  
the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful.  
We need Jesus as much today as in times of old.  
Many sow in tears, and go out weeping.  
Replenish our lands,  
fill our hearts with gladness,  
restore our faith in you and each other,  
wipe away the tears of despair.  
As we worship today,  
we tilt an ear to listen close.  
Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new  
understandings.  
We are waiting for you. Speak to us today.  
We pray 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.



*The Advent candles will be lit this morning by the Collins family*



One: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.”

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 Joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

(The candle of Joy is lit)

Three: O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives.

Four: Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world.

**All: Amen.**



**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



## ANTHEM

“The Wexford Carol”

Irish Carol, arr. Larry Finke

The Choir, Michael Bower, baritone; Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-18

Pew Bible NT p.60

## SERMON

“What Then Should We Do?”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

## \*HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

NCH 133

## 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

“Noel”

Guilmant



## \*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**

“Away in a Manger”

PH 137

**BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Pat-a-Pan”

Burgundian Carol, arr. McKeever

**LITURGIST**

Dave Sageman

**USHERS**

Chris Sheehan, Wendy Ware, Marge Murk

**HOSPITALITY**

Jean Goff & Anita Hawkins

*The Tower is lit this week in honor of Pasquale Accardo by Deanne Accardo*

*In  
Loving  
Memory*



**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**WORSHIP & EVENTS**



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

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

Sunday, December 23, 10am Worship, Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Sunday, January 6, 10am – Epiphany Pageant and Diaper Drive

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



## *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.*



### ***Lessons & Carols Thank You!***

To the Children's Choir, you knew the song perfectly, and sang it with wonderful spirit and joy! Bell choir - the two pieces were gorgeous!

And the Choir - all the very hard work you put in, your willingness to embrace some different and difficult pieces, and the sheer beauty and energy of your collective voices brought tears to my eyes.

Thanks to all the instrumentalists, Dave, Gail, Katie, Melody, Jillian, and Jared played beautifully, and the pieces provided introspective, beautiful moments. Many thanks to Dave for arranging and organizing the quintet piece. And Jillian and Melody - your duet was gorgeous, and a joy to hear! And a special thank you to Gail Tanquay our accompanist for her expertise and playing.

Also, many thanks to the Music Committee, led by Lynne, and The Inreach Ministry Team for the lovely reception. Sincere thanks, also to the readers for their superb presentations of the readings, to the ushers for greeting and taking care of our guests, to Theresa for her creative work on the bulletin, to Michael for the stunning artwork, to Judy for the beautiful sanctuary decorations, and of course, to Craig for leading the service, and providing his support, encouragement and appreciation to all the participants, keeping this wonderful tradition alive!

I truly feel blessed to be a part of our church community, and I look forward to our next musical endeavors together!

Thank you everyone! ~Mary

Friends: We wanted to share this with you. The Rocky Hill Historical Society is selling a beautiful 'Moser School' Christmas Ornament. You can purchase it now through Christmas at Academy Hall, online, or by phone, or contact Gail Tine for more info. [gtine@cox.net](mailto:gtine@cox.net)

### ***Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree***



Help us decorate the Warm Heart Tree in Chapin Hall with new, donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for all ages. In addition, **tube socks for men are also very much needed.** Donations will be collected all through December to January 6. The donated items will benefit the Foster Children's Association of Rocky Hill; VA Hospital, MALT Mobil Hospital Van; and WAIM, an organization that provides clothing and other assistance to families in the Windham area. For questions, please contact Gail Tine.

## 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

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on January 20 (with delivery on Jan. 27). 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. 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 16

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:00am **Church School**  
2:00pm **Christmas Caroling**

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26



### December 17

9:00am Little Scholars  
5:00pm Bonsai Group  
7:00pm Women's AA  
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

### Monday

Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall

Fiorilli  
Sanctuary

### December 18

*Flowers to homebound this week*

7:00pm Cedar Hollow

### Tuesday

Fiorilli

### December 19

7:30pm **Choir**

### Wednesday

Sanctuary

### December 20

7:30pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### December 21

9am-Noon Office open

### Friday

19 Mildred Sword

20 Nicholas Jokl

#### **Epiphany Pageant**

**Sunday, January 6, 10 AM**

Please join us during worship when the young people present an Epiphany Pageant: a retelling and reenactment of the Christmas story.

#### **Diaper Drive**

**Sunday, January 6, 10 AM**

The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut. Our Witness & Outreach Ministry will be collecting diapers during the Epiphany Pageant.



Monday, December 24, 5pm & 11pm

Christmas Eve Worship Services!



The church office will be closed Monday Dec 24 through Thursday Dec 27, and Tuesday Jan 1. The office will be open on Friday Dec 28, Monday Dec 31, and Jan 2-4. The mail prep for the January Church Mouse will be held on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**805 Old Main Street**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Church Office: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) / 860 529-4167

Church Website: [www.RockyHillUCC.org](http://www.RockyHillUCC.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://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](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Steve Smith [admin@rhccucc.org](mailto:admin@rhccucc.org)