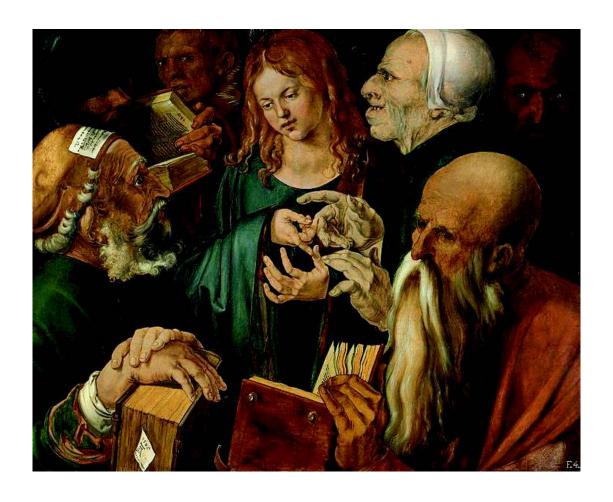
ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



Jesus Among the Doctors by Albrecht Durer

December 30, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m. First Sunday after Christmas

~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.

PRELUDE

"What Strangers are These?"

Scottish Carol

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

All: Let us worship the One who spoke in the beginning and created something out of nothing.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

All: Let us worship the One who took on the clothing of humanity to set those who were oppressed free.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

All: Let us worship the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us from sorrow-filled endings to bright new beginnings.

Bold type denotes collective response,

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, the end of the year is upon us and we gather to offer the strides as well as the struggles of this year to you. We gather to give to you both our hopes and our fears, as we gather to worship.

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and our lives today as we worship.

Grant us each the strength to sing our song,
to pray our prayer, and to listen for the Word that will drive our
fears away and move us to offer praise and thanksgiving.

Inspire us we pray, as Jesus taught us to pray, saying,
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

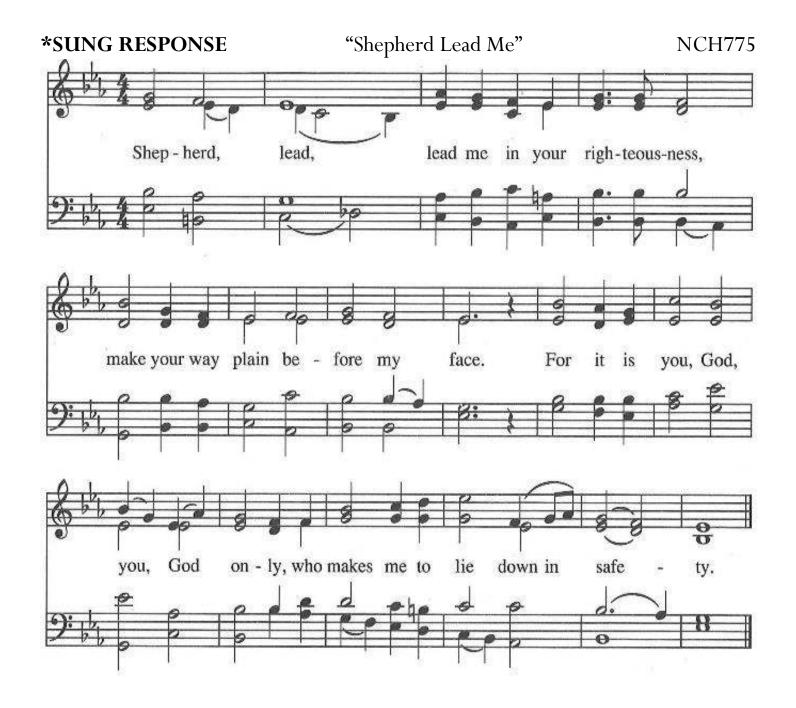
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.





MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

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



SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

Pew Bible NT p.60

SERMON

"What Child Is This?"

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

NCH 154

Hymn request by Grace Cole

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the minister will come down the center aisle to receive prayer request cards.

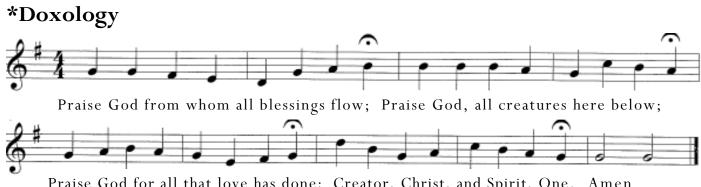
Invitation to the Offering

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

"Sleep, O Lovely Child"

Italian Carol



Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns



Pastoral and Silent Prayer

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Carol of the Bells"

Ukrainian Carol

LITURGIST USHERS HOSPITALITY

Nancy Harlow and Ruth Jensen

The Tower is lit this week in honor of Robert "Bob" Yocum by Bobbie and Dave Hawkins



COMFORT FOOD DINNER Saturday, January 26, 2018,

in Chapin Hall at 5:30 PM.



Menu: Tossed Salad & Rolls, Hot Vegetables, Meat Loaf, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, a variety of Desserts, and Coffee, Tea, Soda.

All are invited to InReach's COMFORT FOOD DINNER!

Then get set to be drawn into the soul and spirit of the delta blues by the acoustic bluesmen of THE COFFEE GRINDERS! They pepper their show with some delta blues history and trivia, too!

Cost is \$10.00 – Adults; \$5.00 – 4 to 12 years; Free – Children under 4 years old; Family cap \$35.00. Please call to reserve tickets with Jeannie Alessi 860/839-1321. Tickets will be on sale during January Coffee Hours.

Snow date: January 27, 2019.

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 30 <u>Sunday</u> 10:00am Worship Sanctuary 9.30am Childcare Room 4

10:00am Church School Rms 24,25,26

December 31 <u>Monday</u> 7:00pm Women's AA Chapin Hall

<u>Tuesday</u> <u>January 1</u>

OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 <u>Wednesday</u>

9:30am Newsletter mailing Fiorilli

January 3 Thursday 7:30pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

<u>Ianuary 4</u> **Friday**

Saturday January 5

9:30am Pageant Rehearsal Sanctuary



December

Krista Pender

January

Gladys Kitchens 1 Samantha Dion

2

Amy Dion

3 Fred Nashold 4 Jack Malespini

5 **Babs Wheeler**



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.

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 <u>ccowing@rhccucc.org</u>

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero <u>mary@rhccucc.org</u> Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary <u>office@rhccucc.org</u>

Webmaster: Steve Smith admin@rhccucc.org