

**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~

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*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.*

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**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,*

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**\*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.**



**\*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**

## 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.

## 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

## \*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**

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

PH 136

**BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Carol of the Bells”

Ukrainian Carol

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**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*

*The  
Loving  
Memory*

**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**

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:00am **Church School**

**Sunday**

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26



**December 31**

7:00pm **Women's AA**

**Monday**

Chapin Hall

**January 1**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday**

**January 2**

9:30am **Newsletter mailing**

**Wednesday**

Fiorilli

**January 3**

7:30pm **Men's AA**

**Thursday**

Chapin Hall

**January 4**

**Friday**

**January 5**

9:30am **Pageant Rehearsal**

**Saturday**

Sanctuary

*December*

30 Krista Pender

*January*

1 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](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)