



# *Southport Congregational Church*

*United Church of Christ*

524 Pequot Avenue

Southport, Connecticut 06890

*office@southportucc.org*

*Rev. Paul Whitmore, Senior Minister*

*Rev. Laura Whitmore, Associate Minister*

---

## **SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

April 28, 2024, at ten o'clock

*Music Appreciation Sunday*

### **PRELUDE**

“Sonatina in G Major” *Beethoven*

*Amelia Uhl, piano*

“Scarf Dance” *Chaminade*

*Charlie Uhl, piano*

“Prelude in C Sharp Minor” *Rachmaninov*

*Charlie Uhl, piano*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**    **“Our God, Our Help In Ages Past”**

***1***

*Elaine DeGrood, organ*

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,**

**Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of your throne, Your saints have dwelt secure;**

**Sufficient is Your arm alone and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,**

**From everlasting You are God to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Your sight, are like an evening gone,**

**Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.    Amen.**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 98:1-8)

Pat Morrow, Deacon

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord a new song!

**People: For God has done marvelous things!**

Leader: Our Lord has given us life...

**People: Praise God for His steadfast love and faithfulness...**

Leader: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**People: Let us break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it...

**People: Let the floods clap their hands; let us sing together for joy!**

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (*Trespases*)

\*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Register Pads, found at the ends of the pews. If you are a visitor, please give us your address.)

Rev. Paul Whitmore

ANTHEM

“Wade In the Water”

Youth Choir

*Traditional, Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Music Directed by Phillip Bettencourt*

(refrain) Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.  
(refrain)

See that band all dressed in white  
God's gonna trouble the water  
The leader looks like the Israelite  
God's gonna trouble the water  
(refrain)

Ya see that band all dressed in red  
God's gonna trouble the water  
It looks like the band that Moses led  
God's gonna trouble, God's gonna trouble  
*(refrain)*

## CELEBRATION OF OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Rev. Laura Whitmore*

### \*HYMN

#### ***"I Sing Your Mighty Power O God"***

**68**

*Infants to PreK are invited to Room 5 for childcare. Children who are participating in the Musical will go to the Chapel.  
All other children will go to the Youth Room for a church school lesson.*

**I sing Your mighty power O God, that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained, the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at Your command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
You formed the creatures with your word, and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
When I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Your glories known;  
The clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Your throne,  
While all that borrows life from You, is ever in your care,  
And everywhere that we can be, You, God, are present there. Amen.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### MUSICAL REFLECTION

**"Ashokan Farewell"** *arr. Douglas Wagner Handbell Choir*

## CALL TO OFFERING

To give, **you may:**

**Place your check or cash in the Offering Plate,**

**Text: 860-854-1995**

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

Or, give by **Venmo**, use @southport\_congregational

***Thank you for your kindness and loving support!***

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“And This Shall Be For Music” *Lightfoot*

*Senior Choir*

I will make you brooches and toys for your delight,  
Of birdsong at morning and starshine at night.  
And I will make a palace that's made for you and me,  
Of green days in the forest and blue days at sea.

And this shall be for music when no one else is near  
Such a fine song for singing, the rare song to hear!

That only I remember, only you admire, of the broad road that stretches  
And the roadside fire. And this shall be for music. And this shall be for song.

Brooches and toys for your delight  
Birdsong at morning and starshine at night.  
And this shall be for music when no one else is near,  
Such a fine song for singing, the rare song to hear!  
That only I remember, that only you admire.  
And this shall be, for music!

## \*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Compassionate God, you instill in each of us the possibility to make your ideal  
vision come alive for each one of your children. Receive these gifts that they may  
grant new life to those in need, hope to those who are struggling, and freedom to all.  
Amen.***

SCRIPTURE

*Exodus 12:2*            The Lord is my strength and my song.

*2 Samuel 11*

SERMON

**“THE IMPACT OF MUSIC”**

*Rev. Paul Whitmore*

SONG

“Hallelujah” *Leonard Cohen*

\*HYMN

***“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”***

8

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;**

**Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,**

**Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,**

**Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,**

**Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest.**

**Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;**

**Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION Response

“Edelweiss”

Senior Choir, Congregation

**Come, O Lord, be with us; fill us with joy and thanksgiving.  
May our hearts fill with peace, come with your love and surround us.  
Friendship and peace, may they bloom and grow; bloom and grow forever.  
Bless us now, bless our friends; bless all people forever.**

POSTLUDE

“Sarabande” *Handel*

*Elaine DeGroot, organ*

~~~~~

***WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL*** to all our musicians this morning - the Senior Choir and Soloists, the Teen, Junior and Cherub Choirs, and the Handbell Choir and their directors, Elaine DeGroot, Phillip Bettencourt and Marnie Kruse. Our choirs provide us with wonderful music all year, and so with great joy and gratitude, we take this Sunday to give our thanks and recognize their talents! Please join us immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall, for coffee hour refreshments, hosted by the Board of Deacons.

***TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS*** are given by Phillip Bettencourt and Jared Dworken in honor of all of our church choirs and musicians.

***CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN*** All Church School children will go to the Chapel with Phillip Bettencourt and Marnie Kruse to begin rehearsal for ***JONAH!***

***CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS THROUGH PRE-K*** will be in Room 5 with Alina Bogatikova and Ella Schott.

***WOULD YOU LIKE SOUTHPORT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH TO BE YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME?*** If you would like to become a member of SCC, please join us **this afternoon at 4 p.m., in the Church Library.** This is the perfect opportunity to meet with our ministers as well as the leaders and members of our Boards and Committees, to learn more about SCC's theological approach and how we operate. **New Members will be welcomed into our congregation during worship on May 19.**

***CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 5, AT 10 A.M.*** - Confirmands will read their Faith Statements, and the Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Sunday service. Our young people have prepared for a year for these services of faith affirmation so please offer your support by attending.

**SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH SURVEY EXTENDED** - *Please complete if you haven't already done so!* The deadline for completing the online survey has been extended to this Monday, April 29. If you haven't already done so, please open the link provided in last Wednesday evening's (April 24) reminder email and take 8 minutes to have your opinions heard. Thank you to all the members who have already submitted their surveys – it is much appreciated!

**FAIRFIELD TOWN HALL MEETING ON UNITED ILLUMINATING'S MONOPOLES:**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 7:30 P.M., ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL** The fight is not over! With the unprecedented decision by the Siting Council to have United Illuminating move the proposed monopoles from the south side of the railroad tracks to the north, Southport and Fairfield aesthetics are still in danger. 22 acres of permanent easements will be taken, and around 100 monopoles, ranging in size from 95 to 195 feet tall, will still be installed. Please attend this important meeting to find out more and what you can do.

***BIBLE STUDY WITH DAVE STUART: "BIBLE STUDY FOR BEGINNERS – BACK TO BASICS ON THE OLD TESTAMENT"*** - If you missed Dave Stuart's Bible Study in April, we still have a few spaces left for the May series! Whether you've never opened a Bible or you just want to put what you know in context, join us for another SCC Bible Study! The group will meet in the Library on Wednesdays, May 8 and 15, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. (note that the time has changed to two 2-hour sessions). To sign up, please contact Dave at [dstuart@southportucc.org](mailto:dstuart@southportucc.org).

***ADULT SOCIAL WITH PICKLEBALL, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6 – 8 PM.*** - Adults can sign up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, all while watching the fun! Food will be available through Super Duper Weenie and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by April 29. Cost is \$20 per person, and you may pay ahead either by cash or check in the church office, or by Venmo @southport\_congregational (for pickleball).

**THE MUSICAL - JONAH!** will be presented during worship on **Celebration Sunday, June 9**. After that service, the All-Church Picnic will be held at the Parsonage - dress casually for church and enjoy the fun day!

**THE CAROUSEL HAS A SPECIAL SALE EACH WEEK!** This week features 50% off items in the Little Room, all men's clothing, white shelf items and lamps. Shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR TODAY'S PARTICIPATION:**

**LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM"** Techs Joe Stekloff and Jonathan Stekloff, directed by Parker Whitmore.

**DEACONS** Janet Reed, Jake Chang, and Elizabeth Fera, under the direction of Deacon Pat Morrow.

**USHERS AND GREETERS ARE NEEDED!** To volunteer, please contact Pam in the office at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**THE BALCONY IS NOW MASK-OPTIONAL!** Remaining sensitive to all our member's needs, the balcony will now join the Sanctuary as mask-optional. Everyone who prefers to wear a mask, is encouraged to continue to do so.

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA'S 2024 ANNUAL MEETING FLOWER SHOW** is next weekend at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. The show "Beyond the Green – Explore. Dream. Discover!" is free and open to the public today, Sunday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Floral Design, Horticulture, Botanical Arts, and Photography entries have been submitted from throughout the country. The show is Co-Chaired by SCC members Peggy Moore, Patti Spaght, and Cynthia Rubin. In addition to the show, there is a fabulous boutique. Please come and enjoy a wonderful event.

**POSITIVE CHOICES IN MENTAL HEALTH: IS THERE LIFE AFTER**

**INFLUENCING?** The Fairfield Collaborative for Youth Mental Health will present an enlightening event on navigating mental health and digital culture on **Wednesday, May 8, from 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. at the Bigelow Center, 100 Mona Terrace, Fairfield.** SCC member Lee Tilghman, formerly known as *Lee From America*, will share her insights on stepping away from the world of influencer fame to find herself. With more than 14 years of experience in blogging, and a following of 387K on Instagram, Lee brings a unique perspective on authenticity, self-discovery, and identity in our digital age. Hear Lee speak on her journey from influencer to introspection; gain valuable insights on mental health and digital wellness, and learn practical tips for finding balance in an increasingly digital world. To register for this free event go to [Reserve Seats – Positive Choices in Mental Health: Is There Life After Influencing?](#) ([tickettailor.com](http://tickettailor.com)). For more information about the FCYMH, go to [Fairfield Collaborative for Youth Mental Health \(fairfieldct.org\)](http://fairfieldct.org).