



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

January 30, 2022, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

“At Peace” *Martinez*

Elaine DeGrood, piano

“Jesus Rest Your Head” *Gwyneth Walker*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the Morning!
Praise for them springing, fresh from the word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall, sun lit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness, of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness, where God’s feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God’s recreation of the new day!**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Katie Traynor

Leader: We gather together today to experience the fullness of the Lord, who gave us our senses that we might know God better.

People: Lord, open our eyes that we might see you.

Leader: Open our ears that we might hear you.

People: Open our hearts that we might know you.

Leader: Let us reach out for the Lord together, knowing that we will not return empty-handed.

People: In faith and in grace, in sight and in sound, in worship and in prayer, let us seek the true presence of the Lord — and be changed by our encounter!

*THE INVOCATION & 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

Deacon Denise Caron-Quinn

SOLO

“Moonlight Sonata” *Beethoven, arr. Lenz*

Rachel Dorset, handbells

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Sydney King

*HYMN

“*Be Thou My Vision*”

(page 6)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Deacon Tamberlyn Chapman

CALL TO OFFERING

Deacon Leah Davis

To give towards your **2022 Stewardship Pledge Contribution** or make a **plate donation**, please text as follows:

Text: 860-854-1995

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

To give **online**, please visit our website at southportucc.org

To **mail** us your offering or pledge, please send a check to:
Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890

Thank you!

OFFERTORY

“On Eagles Wings” *Michael Joncas, arr. Hayes* *Senior Choir*

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, “My refuge my Rock in whom I trust!”

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
and famine will bring you no fear:
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

*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

Receive these gifts, O God, as expressions of our gratitude and loving devotion. May they be used to multiply your love among us and all people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-9, 17-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

...

So Ananias (a disciple in Damascus) went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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*John 20:24-30*

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

SERMON

**"Seeing And/Or Believing"**

*Julie Center, Student Minister*

\*HYMN

*“Amazing Grace”*

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,  
Than when we’d first begun.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Go, My Children With My Blessing”

*Senior Choir*

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me,  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you;  
Go my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

POSTLUDE

*“Song Of Hope” Warner*

## Be Thou My Vision

595

*Unison*

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

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Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

**THE 179<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – All church members are encouraged to attend the 179<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 27, immediately following worship. We will review the past year via the yearly reports prepared by the Officers of the Boards and Committees, to elect new Officers, transact business, adopt the annual budget and make plans for the new year. **Submissions for the Annual Report by Committee Chairs and Officers are due next Sunday, February 6, 2022.** Reports should be sent via email to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org). The 2021 Annual Report will be available for your review a few days before the meeting. Please call the office if you would like a copy.

**THE CAROUSEL THRIFT SHOP** reopens this Tuesday, February 1. Donations will still be accepted on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP GIVING CAMPAIGN** Currently, we have **\$652,000 in pledges toward our 2022 needs of \$750,000.** If you have made your 2022 pledge - thank you! If not, please make it today! You can do so in 3 ways:

- **ONLINE.** Scan the **QR code** (right) with your phone's camera and a notification will pop up. Tap on the notification and it will bring you to SCC's Stewardship Giving Form on our website. You can also navigate to the form from our website [www.southportucc.org](http://www.southportucc.org) where it is found under the "Giving" tab.
- **Paper Form.** Mail or drop off the paper form included in your 2022 Stewardship Giving Packet.
- **Email.** Send an email to Paul DiPrato at [pdiprato@southportucc.org](mailto:pdiprato@southportucc.org) with your pledge information.



**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are provided by the Flower Committee. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** is hosted today in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship, by Irene Santa, and lovingly offered by Melissa Ogunsuyi. **Volunteers are needed** to provide refreshments for future Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, a member of the Fellowship Committee would be more than happy to lend a hand. Please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

**USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY** are Deacons Tamberlyn Chapman, Leah Davis and Denise Caron-Quinn, under the direction of Deacon Katie Traynor.

**USHERS ARE NEEDED** every Sunday - please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) if you would like to volunteer!

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM"** Techs Austin Rasmussen and Kendall Caron-Quinn, directed by Parker Whitmore.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** will meet today (weather pending) in the Chapel with Sydney King to learn about "The Fruits Of The Spirit" with this week's focus on Joy and Peace.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will next meet Sunday, February 6, after worship from 11:15 a.m. until 12:30, in the Youth Room for a pizza party.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:**

- \***SENIOR CHOIR** rehearses in Sanctuary, Sundays, 9:00 a.m., and in Music Room, 11:15 a.m.
- \***THE HANDBELL CHOIR** rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room
- \***THE CHERUB CHOIR** rehearses on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel
- \***THE JUNIOR & TEEN CHOIRS** rehearse on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 6

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)** The Town of Fairfield is sponsoring a CERT disaster training course for 5 consecutive Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., starting February 26. This free, annual training prepares people to help themselves and their community in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Attendees are trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, disaster medical operations as well as shelter operations. The CT Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and FEMA developed the training and upon completion of the course, participants are eligible, and invited to join the Fairfield CERT Team. Please visit [www.fairfieldct.org/Community-Emergency-Response-Team](http://www.fairfieldct.org/Community-Emergency-Response-Team) for registration information.