



# *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*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

February 6, 2022, at ten o'clock

*Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE

“Cantabile” *Michael Martinez*

*Elaine DeGrood, piano*

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home” *arr. Helvey*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee. Amen.**

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Deacon Leah Davis*

**Leader:** In this and every season of our lives, let us worship God with hearts full of awe and wonder.

**People:** **For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.**

**Leader:** In each new heartbeat of hope and in each new day of our lives, we receive God's gift of time.

**People:** **Let us receive each hour as a blessing and recognize each day as a chance to deepen our relationship with God.**

**Leader:** Let us awaken in this moment to the ways God breaks forth in the world.

**People:** **And let us feel God's presence expansively, now as in eternity. Amen.**

\*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

*Julianne Center, Student Minister*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

\*HYMN

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

**All creatures of our God and King,**

**Lift up your voice and with us sing**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam,**

**Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise Him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest all both warmth and light,  
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Laura Whitmore*

CALL TO OFFERING

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](http://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!*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
 And with fear and trembling stand;  
 Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
 For with blessing in His hand,  
 Christ our God, to earth descendeth,  
 Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
 As of old on earth He stood,  
 Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
 In the body and the blood,  
 He will give to all the faithful  
 His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
 Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
 As the Light of light descendeth  
 from the realms of endless day,  
 That the powers of hell may vanish  
 As the darkness clear away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph;  
 Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
 Veil their faces to the presence  
 As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Alleluia, Lord Most High! Amen.

## \*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

**Our faith in you reveals itself in the generosity with which we give.  
 Accept these offerings as a sign of love for you, and our commitment  
 to honor you in our world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

*Mark 4:30-32*

Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

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*Matthew 17:20*

"... I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

SERMON

**“Thinking Small”**

*Rev. Paul Whitmore*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(Please take the elements in unison with the Ministers.)

**Communion is gluten-free and non-alcoholic so that all may be included.**

\*HYMN

***“God of Grace and God of Glory”***

**God of grace and God of glory  
On thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church’s story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn thy Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise,**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton selfish gladness  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

*Senior Choir*

The Lord Bless you and keep you;  
the Lord lift His countenance upon you,  
and give you peace,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.  
Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Largo" from *Suite in D Purcell*

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***A NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES STARTS THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT ON ZOOM***

Come join Laura and Julie on Zoom for a look into 3 of the Old Testament's Minor Prophets: Jonah, Micah and Malachi. This is an interactive event, so grab your Bibles, read each book prior to our meeting and let's discuss! We will begin on February 9 with Jonah, followed by Micah on February 16 and Malachi on February 23. The class will be from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Zoom links will be sent before each class.

***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 the Sanctuary, Sunday, February 27, immediately following worship. We will review the past year, elect new Officers, adopt the annual budget, and make plans for the new year. **Today is the deadline for Submissions for the Annual Report by Committee Chairs and Officers.** 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 2022 STEWARDSHIP GIVING CAMPAIGN*** **Currently, we have \$660,000 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 in loving memory of Barbara Evans' beautiful sister, Dotsie, from the Evans family. 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 Liz Waiksnis. **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 Sadhana Joliet, Joe Pezzimenti, Ann Lillis and Usher Pat Matteson, under the direction of Deacon Leah Davis.

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

**CHURCH SCHOOL** will meet today in the Chapel with Sydney King to learn about “The Fruits Of The Spirit” with this week’s focus on Patience. Church School students keep your eyes open for a special delivery in the mail - an activity pack on the book of Genesis is coming your way! Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Alyssa Santa and Ella Schott.

**S'MORES AND HOT CHOCOLATE WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL** next Sunday, February 13 at 4:30 p.m. Our High School Youth Group invites children of SCC to an afternoon of fun and games while enjoying s’mores and hot chocolate by the fire pit! This is a great way to get reacquainted with one another as we head into spring!

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** will meet tonight with Laura in the Youth Room at 7 p.m. **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will meet this afternoon immediately following worship until 12:30, in the Youth Room for a pizza party.

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK’S LIVESTREAM “DREAM TEAM”** Techs Torin Schott and Asha Joliet, directed by Parker Whitmore.

**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
- \***ALL YOUTH CHOIRS** will rehearse next Sunday, February 13, in Room 6 at 9:15 a.m.

**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.