

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

March 27, 2022, at ten o'clock

Lenten Cantata

PRELUDE

“Deep River” *Heifetz*

“Meditation” *from Thais, Massenet*

Darwin Shen, violin

Elaine DeGrood, piano

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN **“Praise To The Lord The Almighty”** (vv. 1-3)

(see page 6)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrew Malkin, Deacon

Leader: Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. Let us sing our praises to the glory of God. *(Psalm 66:1)*

People: Even the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Leader: Great and awesome is the touch of God. The whole universe sings of God's love.

People: We gather to remember all that God has revealed, and we come to discover what God is doing among us.

Leader: Let us celebrate the music of life.

People: Let us sing for joy in our worship, for God is our strength and our song.

*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 *Rev. Laura Whitmore*

*(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.)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (vv. 1-3)

(see page 7)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Julianne Center, Student Minister

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 by **Venmo**, use @southport_congregational

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

“Amoroso” Lobos-Fiser

*Darwin Shen, violin
Elaine DeGrood, piano*

*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

Generous God, the gifts you give are not just for our own benefit, but extend to and embrace the world around us. In response, we offer ourselves and our gifts in return with thanks for our ability to share in your love and grace. May you accept our gifts in this spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Psalm 95:1, 2

MUSIC OF PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

*Senior Choir and Soloists Directed by Elaine DeGrood
Darwin Shen, Violin*

*“The Prayer” Carol Bayer Sager and David Foster
Beau Allen, Shannon Doyle, Leslie Uhl*

I pray You'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go,
And help us to be wise in times when we don't know.

Let this be our prayer, when we lose our way.

Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace
to a place where we'll be safe.

Lead us to a place,

Guide us with Your grace.

Give us faith so we'll be safe.

We ask that life be kind, and watch us from above.

We hope each soul will find another soul to love.

Let this be our prayer just like ev'ry child.

“Ave Maria” Cuccini, arr. Liebergen

*Senior Choir
Darwin Shen, Violin*

“Let There Be Peace On Earth” *Miller-Jackson*

Senior Choir
Darwin Shen, violin

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

“Just A Closer Walk With Thee” *arr. Mark Hayes*

Senior Choir

I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

(refrain) Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee; let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Though this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee dear Lord, none but Thee.
(refrain)

When my feeble life is ov'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to Thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
(refrain)

“You'll Never Walk Alone” *with* “Climb Ev'ry Mountain”
Rodgers and Hammerstein, arr. Hayes

Senior Choir

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone.

Climb every mountain, search high and low,
Follow ev'ry byway, ev'ry path you know.

Climb every mountain, ford ev'ry stream.
Follow ev'ry rainbow, till you find your dream!

A dream that will need all the love you can give,
Ev'ry day of your life for as long you live, as you live.

Climb every mountain, ford ev'ry stream
Follow ev'ry rainbow till you find your dream!

Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart.
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart.
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone.
You'll never walk, you'll never walk, you'll never walk alone!

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "The Gift of Each Day" *Rutter* *Senior Choir*

The gift of each day rising out of darkness;
The promise of light and the birth of new life,
The dawn of new hope and a new beginning,
if we turn to light;
The gift of each day has been freely granted;
The gift of creation in glory revealed.
We thank you Lord, for all its blessings
We thank you Lord, for the gift of each day.

POSTLUDE

"Ashokan Farewell" *Jay Ungar*


Darwin Shen
Elaine DeGrood, piano

15


Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.


LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;
Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,



Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
If with his love he be-friend thee.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Welsh Hymn Melody

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.



THE SENIOR CHOIR

Elaine DeGrood, Director of Music and Organist

Sopranos

Patti Spaght
Laura Wilbur

Altos

Marnie Kruse
Nancy Long

Tenors

Craig Gillespie
Scott Kruse

Basses

Jack Ijams
Doug Goodman
Judd McArthur
Peary Spaght

Soloists

Leslie Uhl, *Soprano*
Shannon Doyle, *Alto*
Beau Allen, *Baritone*

Darwin Shen, *Violin*

WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR SOLOISTS, THE SENIOR CHOIR and VIOLINIST DARWIN SHEN DARWIN SHEN for today's Lenten cantata.

CHURCH SCHOOL will meet today in the Chapel with Laura Whitmore to discuss how important it is to embrace the gifts that God has given us, so we can do our best for God. Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning Ella Schott and Alyssa Santa.

COMMUNITY INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR UKRAINE Revs. Paul and Laura Whitmore will join other Fairfield Clergy tomorrow **Monday, March 28, at 5 p.m.** on the front lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 661 Old Post Road. All are invited to attend.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER AND SERVICE OF TENEBRAE, APRIL 14, AT 7 P.M. We are happy to announce that we will be together once again for this special dinner and service in Fellowship Hall! After careful consideration, for everyone's comfort, the Board of Deacons decided to limit the seating to 94, reduced from our usual number of 146. Reservations will be accepted for church members first. If space allows, we will accommodate guests. If you would like to make a reservation, please use the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org. *Recommended for children 10 or older.*

LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER! The Fellowship Committee invites you to attend two very fun events. We would love to see you at each one:

April 29: Pickleball Social Event

Adults can sign-up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, while watching the fun! Food will be available through Food Trucks and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org by April 17. The rain date is May 6.

May 21: The Progressive Dinner Returns!

This very popular event will return, and we hope you will be there! We will begin with cocktails at the home of one of our members, break into smaller groups for dinner at assorted homes, and then gather back together for dessert at the Parsonage. RSVP to Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org by May 2.

OUR EASTER BASKET FOOD DRIVE IS UNDERWAY Join us in helping our greater community as we celebrate Easter. If looking at a print version of this bulletin, check your email from March 22 and click the link to sign up for a food item to help. If viewing digitally, just click [HERE](#). You may purchase the items yourself and bring them to the Church Office or you can use a grocery delivery service (Amazon, Peapod, Instacart, etc.) to have them sent to the office. We ask that all items be delivered to the church on **April 6 or 7 since some items requested are perishables**. No time to shop? You can send a cash donation by Venmo @southport_congregational or text to give \$ amt Basket to 860-854-1995.

On April 10, immediately following worship, the church family is invited to gather in the Chapel and pack 25 Easter Baskets for our receiving agencies. It is a short, easy and fun activity for both families and individuals alike!

ST. GEORGE'S COMMUNITY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! On the third Monday of every month, SCC volunteers provide a bagged dinner meal for a community supper hosted by St. George's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport. Our volunteers prepare the meals in advance and deliver to St. George's in the afternoon. SCC provides condiments, cutlery, napkins, juices, snacks, desserts and bags. We need volunteers to provide the sandwiches and fresh fruit. Your meal prep expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like to volunteer for this needed program, please contact our SCC coordinator Hedy Mosier himosey@yahoo.com for more information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! Thank you to all who donated close to \$5,000 on two Sundays in March to help the people of Ukraine! Half of these donations will be directed to the Connecticut Institute of Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) to support Ukrainian refugees who will be resettled in Connecticut. The other half has been used to purchase medical supplies for hospitals in and around the city of Lviv, Ukraine, and for non-perishable food items such as energy bars. SCC's medical supply donations and food items will be delivered to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in the Bridgeport Diocese, and the container will be shipped on April 1 to Cracow, Poland. From there, the supplies will travel via Franciscan Ways to Lviv.

HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER! Help continue our tradition of filling our Sanctuary with lilies and flowers for Easter! You may purchase a plant in **Honor of** or **In Memory of** your loved ones (this information will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin). Each plant is \$15 and you can pick up your plant(s) after Easter Service should you want to enjoy their beauty at home. We have several easy ways to pay:

1. **Text:** 860-854-1995, \$ amt Lily, an example for buying two lilies: \$30 Lily
Follow-up with Pam by email ppoling@southportucc.org or phone (203) 255-1594 to provide ‘in memory of’ or “in honor of” details.
2. **Venmo** @southport_congregational with the amount and “in memory of” or “in honor of” details.
3. **Online** by clicking the ‘Give’ button on the landing page of southportucc.org and select “Give to Lily” as the fund, using the down arrow in the input box. Provide ‘in memory of’ or “in honor of” details in the comment box located below your credit card information.
4. **By Check** simply stop by or mail a check with the form found in your March Newsletter. Forms are available outside the office. Mail to:
Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890

THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS WINDING DOWN. It has been another successful campaign year! We raised \$715,017 due to the generosity of 189 families that made pledge commitments that collectively helped us create an annual operating plan inclusive of the many programs, giving, care and worship services we offer to help all be equipped for life! A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PLEDGERS! If you have not yet pledged, but would like to, you can do so anytime through our website under the *Giving* tab or by contacting Paul DiPrato at pdiprato@southportucc.org or 203-255-1594.

THE GLITCH IN LAST WEEK’S LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE Due to an area wide service disruption, there was a break in the livestream during the sermon for those of you watching from home. The problem has since been resolved and we look forward to a complete service this morning!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR is hosted today in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship by Karen Dmochowski and Elaine Milone of the Fellowship Committee. **Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future Sundays.** If you would like to volunteer, the Fellowship Committee would be more than happy to lend a hand. Please contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org or 203-255-1594 to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY are Deacon Joe Pezzimenti and Ushers Andrea Pezzimenti and John Pezzimenti under the direction of Deacon Andrew Malkin. ***USHERS ARE NEEDED*** every Sunday - please contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org if you would like to volunteer!

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

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were given by the Spaght Family in honor of Elaine DeGroot and the Senior Choir. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org or 203-255-1594.

CHURCH SCHOOL MINI GARDENS EVENT, SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 4:30 P.M Our High School Youth Group invites children of SCC to plant and take home a mini flower or herb garden to celebrate Earth Month! Mark it on your calendar - more details to follow!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets this Tuesday, March 29, at 4 p.m., in the Youth Room, with Julianne Center.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP MEMBER PATRICK BURHENNE will be part of a three-person art exhibit at the Kershner Gallery in the Fairfield Public Library. The show, *Kaleidoscope*, runs from April 9 through June 4, with an opening reception on April 14.

THE MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Paul Whitmore. All men are welcome to come and grow in faith and fellowship. Email Paul at pwhitmore@southportucc.org to be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic.

THE WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Laura Whitmore. Join Laura to discuss current events, spirituality, and new psychological ideas and much more. The curriculum runs parallel to the Men's Group, allowing for conversation during the week. Contact Laura at lwhitmore@southportucc.org to be put on the list.

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 a.m. in the Chapel.
- ***THE JUNIOR & TEEN CHOIRS** rehearse on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 6.