



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 3, 2022, at ten o'clock

Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

“The Dawning Of The Day” *Traditional Irish* Wendy Kerner, harp

“The Skylark” *Traditional Irish*

“Sweet Portaferry” *Traditional Irish*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“For The Beauty Of The Earth”

(vv. 1-4)

(see page 4)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Katie Traynor, Deacon

Leader: A new life is given to us once again this day, filled with God’s hope and fresh possibilities!

People: **God gives us this day, and every day of our life, so we may thrive as individuals and as a community of faith; to love; to help one another, to heal, forgive, build and celebrate the goodness of life and God’s gifts in this world.**

Leader: As we venture together into our future that is bright with hope, let us celebrate this day in worship and in joy.

People: **For God’s spirit surrounds us, empowers us, encourages us and refreshes us to work together according to God’s purpose.**

Leader: Renew and strengthen our spirit, O God.

People: **And help us to say “yes” to you, today and forever more!**

*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.)

*HYMN

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

(see page 4)

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 for your kindness and loving support!

OFFERTORY

“Grace” *Early American melody, arr. Mark Hayes*

Senior Choir

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

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already safely come;
This grace hath brought me safe thus far, and surely, surely, grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, the glorious sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than since the day we first begun,
Than since the day we first begun. 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**

*God, you have given us everything! You have granted us life and poured out your
abiding love upon us. In our gratitude, we share our resources with others as we
give to our greater family in need. Bless these gifts that they may express the
fulness of our love, good will, and generosity. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:12

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.
New Living Translation

SERMON

“What Can I Do?”

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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (vv. 1-3)

(see page 5)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Seek Ye First”

(see page 5)

POSTLUDE

“Esquisse” *Henriette Renie*

Wendy Kerner, harp

For the Beauty of the Earth

66

Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Abridged from a chorale by
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,



Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

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.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, *all.*BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1815-1882

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.

Seek Ye First

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1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's



righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be



add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE FIRST
Irr.

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

♩=72-80

CHURCH SCHOOL will meet today in the Chapel with Laura Whitmore, to prepare for Holy Week by learning about the Last Supper and participating in a Seder meal! Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Alyssa Santa and Ella Schott.

CHURCH SCHOOL MINI GARDENS: THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:30 P.M AT THE BARN
Our High School Youth Group invites children of SCC to plant and take home a mini flower or herb garden to celebrate Earth Month!

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.*

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

ART EXHIBIT AT THE KERSHNER GALLERY 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.

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 a Food Truck 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, then 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 31 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](https://www.venmo.com/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.

WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR SOLOISTS, THE SENIOR CHOIR AND HARPIST WENDY KERNER for today's beautiful music.

USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY are Deacons Sadhana Joliet, Jeffrey Earls, Anne Lillis and Jeff Nickell, under the direction of Deacon Katie Traynor. **USHERS ARE NEEDED** every Sunday - please contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org if you would like to volunteer!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR is hosted today in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship by Eliza Murphy Chang and Christina Whittaker Haas. **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 to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM" Techs Austin Rasmussen and Jonathan Stekloff, directed by Trevor Uhl.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were given by Robin Marshlow to celebrate the birthdays of her two great nieces, Taylor Jean Bly (3) and Brooke Elizabeth Bly (1), two of Robin's greatest joys. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at ppoling@southportucc.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets this Tuesday, April 5, at 4 p.m., in the Youth Room, with Julianne Center.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets this Tuesday, April 5, at 5:30 p.m., in the Youth Room, with dinner gratefully provided by Tommy Wright and family.

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.