



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

THE SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 19, 2021, at ten o'clock

Fourth Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *Traditional*

“Believe” *Ballard/Silvestri, arr. R. Wallace*

“In The Bleak Midwinter” *Gustav Holst, arr. D. Catherwood*

Brass Ensemble

Steve Perrett, Trumpet Gretchen Perrett, Trumpet

Kathy Morse, Horn Tyler Miller, Euphonium

*HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echo back their joyous strains.**

***(refrain)* Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song.**

(refrain)

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ, The Lord, the newborn King.**

(refrain)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Laura Whitmore

Leader: In the darkness before the dawn, the morning stars witness a birth.

People: *And the silence of the night is broken by a joyful cry that echoes throughout the land.*

Leader: And that joyful sound still floats across the oceans deep;

People: *It reaches into the corners of the universe and rests within the depths of our hearts.*

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: *For the Christ, the Savior, is born.*

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: *And on earth, peace, and good will to all.*

*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.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Advent Liturgists – Chris, Marjory, Casey, Tom, Kylie and Sam Palmer

Leader: The season of Advent continues. For the last three Sundays, the frail light of hope, peace and love dared to pierce through the darkness of despair and violence.

People: *We live our lives more abundantly when we live lives filled with hope, peace and love.*

Leader: Today, we light the candle of joy as a reminder that a life filled with God is a life filled with joy.

People: *This light, too, must shine through great darkness.*

Leader: In the Gospel of John it is written, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

People: *Help us keep your joy in our hearts as we move towards the day of Jesus' birth, so that we can bring Joy to everyone we meet along this journey of life.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Light One Candle” *Cherub, Teen, Junior and Senior Choirs*

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Julie Center, Student Minister

*HYMN

“What Child Is This, Who, Laid To Rest”

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthem sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

(refrain) This, this is Christ the King, whom Shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

(refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;

The king of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

(refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2021 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!

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter’s stillness
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He has come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth;
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing ‘Peace on earth’.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Savior’s coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing, ‘Christ is born.’

***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**

Loving God, we give you thanks for life itself, for warmth, for food, for laughter and the blessings of friendship. We are especially grateful to receive your love in the surprising form of a child. We offer you these gifts in gratitude, knowing that the greatest gift is our participation with you in bringing about your kingdom of love on earth. Amen.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit...

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

...And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him...

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

And when they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

And when they departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, and take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! the Herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

(refrain) **Hark! the Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

(refrain)

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth,**

(refrain)

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Gloria In Excelsis Deo”

Senior Choir

POSTLUDE

“Ding Dong Merrily On High” *Traditional, arr. K. Agioritis*

SCC WILL BE ON CBS SUNDAY MORNING - TODAY! Our beautiful Sanctuary served as the backdrop for a story about the beloved song, *Christmas Time Is Here*, from A Charlie Brown Christmas, and its composer Vince Guaraldi. To view the segment please visit [CBS Sunday Morning](#) later today.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS join the Mission Outreach Board in the Barn immediately following worship to assemble 22 baskets for our friends at Emerge, Inc. (a home for survivors of domestic abuse), The Kennedy Center's Autism Project (a support organization for families affected by autism) and Alpha Home (which provides for families experiencing homelessness).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE 5 P.M. & 10 P.M. We want to insure the joy and comfort of all! Please call the church office (203-255-1594) ***by noon on Thursday, December 23.*** Masks are requested and will be available upon entry to the Sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation!

THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP GIVING CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN Currently, we have **\$365,588 in pledges** so we still have a way to go. If you have it made your pledge for 2022, please make it today!

Making your pledge is easy in 2022! 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 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 with your pledge information.



USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY are Deacons Jeff Provost, Ann Lillis and Denise Caron-Quinn under the direction of Deacon Sadhana Joliet.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR is hosted today by the Fellowship Committee with a festive collection of Christmas cookies, in Fellowship Hall.

THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM" Techs Austin Rasmussen and Jack Waiksnis with Trevor Uhl, Director.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING What better gift can a church give, then to help youth live out a life of love, care for others and generosity? **This year's Christmas Eve offering will be given to the Shepherds Program. Shepherds is an educational program for inner-city Bridgeport teens** who are given the opportunity to attend a private high school in order to give them a step up into a brighter future. This year, Shepherds' youth are looking for ways to help others! We are teaming up with them to provide food for the Thomas Merton Center, a food distribution site in inner-city Bridgeport that serves over 400 meals a day. While we provide the funding, Shepherds' students will have the opportunity to organize, purchase and distribute food to people in real need. **So this Christmas Eve, your offering will give twice - helping the students be able to give back to their community *and* serving those suffering from food iniquity - *it's two gifts in one!***

THE CAROUSEL THRIFT SHOP will close for a well-deserved holiday break on Tuesday, December 22 at 3 p.m., and reopen on Tuesday January 4 at 11 a.m.

CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY All are welcome to meet Phillip Bettencourt in the Chapel for a special activity. Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 with Ella Chapman mand and Alyssa Santa.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet tonight for the annual Yankee Swap, their last meeting of the year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP will meet again on Tuesday, January 4, at 4 p.m.!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will resume their meetings on Tuesday, January 4 at 5:30 p.m., in the Youth Room, with dinner provided by Scarlett Rex and family.

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:

***SENIOR CHOIR** at 11:15 a.m. in the Music Room; 9 p.m., Christmas Eve, in the Sanctuary

***TEEN CHOIR** at 11:30 a.m. in Room 6; 4 p.m., Christmas Eve, in Room 6

***JUNIOR CHOIR** at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, in Room 6

***THE CHERUB CHOIR** at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, in the Chapel

*Youth Choirs will not rehearse on December 26, but will resume on January 2.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR resumes regular rehearsals on January 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.



**MEMORIAL AND HONORARY
2021 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND
POINSETTIAS**



Barbara Abbott, in memory of her parents and in honor of her son and daughter.

Grace Berg, in memory of deceased family members.

Phillip Bettencourt & Jared Dworken, in memory of Marianne Challis, Cynthia Dworkin, and John & Jeri Skinner.

Jim & Elinor Biggs, in loving memory of Mary, Kate & Jack Upton, and Sierra, George & Jane Biggs.

Jim & Elinor Biggs, with heartfelt gratitude for Paul and Laura's loving leadership, Julie's internship with SCC, and the outstanding and talented staff of our Church.

Jim & Debbie Burns, in loving memory of their parents, Bob & Sona Current, and Jim & Marg Burns.

Tamberlyn Chapman and family, in loving memory of Elmer & Eleanor Burt.

Tamberlyn Chapman and family, in memory and honor of all the law enforcement officers and first responders of 9/11 who sacrificed their lives to save others.

Jill Cohen and family, in memory of grandmothers Virginia Magnuson and Jean Meleski.

Jill Cohen and family, in honor of daughter Kaela Cohen on her Christmas Day birthday (14!).

The Davis-Bellucci Family, in memory of Fred Davis and Fred Bellucci.

The DiPrato Family in loving memory of Paul's mother, Josephine Ida DiPrato.

Paul & Lisa Doocy, in memory of Fred & Mary Doocy, and Ted Yonan.

Shannon Doyle, in honor of her mom, Bonnie Doyle.

Martha Dunn, in memory of Caroline Dunn, Carl von Conta and Paul Gamsjaeger.

Debbie Eck, in honor of Walter, her first grandson.

Anne Estelle, in memory of Weems Estelle.

Katie & Doug Goodman, in memory of their deceased relative and friends.

Katie & Doug Goodman, in memory of David Blackburn.

*Hank & Sherry Greer, in memory of their parents, Elsie & John E. Greer,
and Pasty & Billie L. Stone.*

Joyce Hergenhan, in loving memory of her parents, John & Goldie Hergenhan.

Dave Huntington, in loving memory of Joan S. Huntington.

Jack & Sally Ijams, in memory of Susan Blatchford and Seton & Anne Ijams.

Carol Ketcham, in memory of Donald Ketcham.

Ann Lillis, in memory of Jim Lillis, and parents Jim & Vera Lillis and Kathryn & Joe Buford.

Ann Lillis, in honor of her grandsons, Owen, Conor and Patrick Buford.

Ray, Nancy, Emily, Leslie and Jude Long, in loving memory of Warren T. Long.

*Ray & Nancy Long, in memory of their parents, William & Marie Long, and
Warren & Ethel Douglas Cail.*

The Malkin Family, in memory of John W. Stokes.

Robin Marshlow, in honor of her family, young and old, near and far.

Chuck & Pat Matteson, in memory of Dr. Lawrence Ely & Dorothy Ely, Pat's parents

Chuck & Pat Matteson, in memory of Hope & Nels Fendrich, Chuck's mother and stepfather.

The Merchant Family, in loving memory of Matthew "Matt" Merchant, forever in our hearts.

*The Merchant Family, in loving memory of Jack and Helen Morrow,
and Chuck & Rosemary Merchant, miss you every day.*

The Miller Family, in loving memory of Bert & Charlotte Miller.

The Miller Family, in loving memory of Chip Wells and Richard 'Dick' Wells.

The Miller Family, in loving memory of Tom Morris and Marie Flinn.

The Miller Family, in loving memory of John & Ann Morris.

The Miller Family, in loving memory of Ernest & Vernita Schaberg.

Hedy Mosier, in loving memory of her mother and father, Karl & Elise Zimmermann.

The Palmer Family, in honor of our church community, who are the very best. We love them with all our heart.

Elizabeth Parady & Tony Fera, in memory of Ron Parady, beloved father.

Elizabeth Parady & Tony Fera, in honor of Jo Anne Parady, beloved mother.

The Pech-Leslie Family, in memory of Joanne Leslie.

The Pech-Leslie Family, in memory of Karl Pech and Mary Lou Pech.

Pam & Jeff Poling, in loving memory of Pam's sister, Barbara.

Jeff & Traci Provost, in memory of Jim & Norma Wiser.

Jeff & Traci Provost, in honor of their beautiful granddaughter, Thayer Provost.

The Rasmussen Family, in memory of Bernice Mouw.

Howard & Judy Reynolds, in honor of family and friends.

The Root Family, in loving memory of Marianne Challis.

The Root Family, in loving memory of John & Jeri Skinner, and Elizabeth Skinner.

The Ryan Family, in loving memory of Bill Ryan.

Ann Shaw, in memory of John Shaw.

Jody Skelton, in memory of Jamie Skelton, from Mom, Dad, Mike and Becca.

Craig Skinner, in loving memory of John & Jeri Skinner, and Elizabeth Skinner.

Hugh & Sally Smith, in memory of their son, Rod.

Hugh & Sally Smith, in honor of Jeff, Jenn and Stacey, and their five precious grandchildren.

All of SCC, in loving memory of Jake Panus.

The Spaght Family, in celebration of Christmas.

Dave & Peggy Stuart, in memory of Peggy's parents, Jerry & Fran Jerome.

Dave & Peggy Stuart, in honor of Dave's parents, Gary & Sylvia Stuart.

John & Katie Traynor, in memory of John's father, John Edward Traynor.

John & Katie Traynor, in memory of Robert & MaryLou Nally, Katie's parents.

Roger & Anita True, in memory of Charles True, and in honor of Marjorie True.

Leslie, Trevor, Carter, Charlie and Amelia Uhl, in memory of George Leeman, Leslie's father.

*Florence Verrill, Gordon Verrill and Sarah & Paul Refalo, in loving memory of
Ted Wright Verrill.*

Liz Waiksnis, in loving memory of Mary Favata.

Margot A. Welter, in loving memory of her parents, John and Esther Welter.

*Carol and Dwight Wheeler, in honor of their grandchildren Molly, Jack, Connor, Ellie, Hayes
and Gigi.*

*Havilande and Jim Whitcomb, in memory of Eleanor and Andrew Whitcomb, Nancy Bayard
and Bill Brown.*

*The Whitmore Family, in loving memory of Jamie Skelton, Scott and Audrey Hutchinson,
and Edwin and Betty Belle Whitmore.*

Laura and Packer Wilbur in honor of their nine wonderful grandchildren.

Margee Zellers, in memory of her parents, Jack and Peg Zellers.