



# 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*

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

### Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2021, at ten o'clock p.m.

#### PRELUDE

“Riu, Riu, Chiu” *Spanish Carol, arr. S Ramsey*

“Jesu, Joy Of Man’s Desiring” *J.S. Bach, arr. D. Thomas*

“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” *M. Praetorius, arr. E. Ransom*

#### Brass Ensemble and Timpani

*Steve Perrett, Trumpet*

*Gretchen Perrett, Trumpet*

*Tyler Miller, Euphonium*

*Meredith Moore, French Horn*

*Anthony DeQuattro, Percussion*

#### INTROIT

“Gesù Bambino” (The Infant Jesus) *Pietro Yon*

*Shannon Doyle, Leslie Uhl, Soloists*

When blossoms flowered, ‘mid the snows upon a winter night  
was born the Child the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
the grateful earth rejoiced.

And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced, grateful earth rejoiced,  
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

#### PROCESSIONAL

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

***refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

***(refrain)***

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
(refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
(refrain)**

WORDS OF WELCOME AND REFLECTION

*Rev. Paul Whitmore*

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rev. Laura Whitmore*

Leader: Tonight as our hearts are filled with the spirit of Christmas, we sing and rejoice,

***People: For God has come to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, blessing the world with love, bringing hope to all people, and giving us the promise and means for peace among all nations.***

Leader: On this Christmas Eve, we join with people all around the world, as we praise God, saying:

***People: "Glory be to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to all."***  
*(Luke 2:14)*

\*THE INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER *(Trespases)*

ANTHEM

***"Praise Ye The Lord Of Hosts"*** *Saint-Saëns, from Christmas Oratorio  
Senior Choir, Anthony DeQuattro, Percussion*

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord.  
God the Lord of Light, he hath shin'd upon us  
thou alone my God art; and all my trust is in thee.

Oh Lord, thou art my God.  
I will exhalt thee and praise thy name, arise now Daughter of Zion! Alleluia.

Praise God in the night.  
Praise him in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia.  
Praise ye the Lord of hosts; sing his salvation, bless His name.  
Show forth His praise in His holy house!

Rejoice ye heavens and be joyful on earth.  
Rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia!

\*CAROL

*“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 the angelic host 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 as man with men 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 man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
 (*refrain*)

SECOND LESSON

The Annuciation

Luke 1:26-38

\*CAROL

*“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
 From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
 “Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King.”  
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
 And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;  
 Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
 And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
 When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
 When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
 And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing. Amen.

## \*ANTHEM

“A Gaelic Rose” *arr. Hayes**Senior Choir*

Behold a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
 This Rose which I am singing, where of Isaiah said  
 Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest maid.  
 Isaiah hath foretold it in words of promise sure,  
 And Mary's arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.  
 O flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
 Dispel with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.  
 A great and mighty wonder! A full and holy cure!  
 The Virgin bears the Infant, with Virgin honor pure!  
 The word becomes Incarnate, True Man, yet very God;  
 From sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load. Alleluia!

## FOURTH LESSON

**The Birth Of Jesus***Luke 2:1-7*

## \*CAROL

“*The First Nowell*”

**The first Nowell, the angels did say,  
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*(refrain)* **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
 Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 And so it continued both day and night,  
*(refrain)***

**And by the light of that same star  
 Three wise men came from country far;  
 To seek for a king was their intent,  
 And to follow the star wherever it went.  
*(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

Tonight's cash 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. We are teaming up with them to provide food for the Thomas Merton Center, a food distribution site in inner-city Bridgeport. Shepherds' students will have the opportunity to organize, purchase and distribute food to people in need.

## OFFERTORY

“Angels We Have Heard On High” *arr. Helvey*

*Senior Choir*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply echo back the joyous strains.  
(*refrain*) 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*)

## FIFTH LESSON

**The Shepherds**

*Luke 2:8-16*

## SOLO

“O Holy Night” *Adolph Adam*

*Beau Allen, Soloist*

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love, and His gospel is peace;  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name;  
Christ is the Lord, oh, praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim! His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim!

## REFLECTION & THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS *(Please do not tip the lit candles.)*

*To symbolize the Light which came into the world when Jesus was born, we share the light from the Christ Candle with each of you this night. When lighting your candle, tip the unlighted candle toward the lighted one. Please extinguish your candles at the end of "Joy To The World."*

### \*CAROL *(seated)*

### *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin Mother and Child, holy infant, so tender & mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

## BENEDICTION

### \*CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE

### *"Joy To The World"*

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

POSTLUDE

“Deck The Halls” *Traditional, arr. Bill Holcombe*

~~~~~

**USHERING TONIGHT** are Deacons Ann Lillis, Jeff Provost, Katie Traynor and Marjory Palmer, under the Direction of Jeffrey Earls.

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK’S LIVESTREAM DREAMTEAM**, Parker Whitmore.

**THE ENSEMBLE** appears thanks to the generosity of The Music Fund.

**PLEASE GIVE THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE** that you use during the service to the usher at the door as you exit or place it on the table in the Narthex.

**UNFORTUNATELY THERE WILL BE NO GREETING AT THE DOOR TONIGHT BY THE MINISTERS** as the congregation exits, in order to best protect the health of all! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

***The Staff of Southport Congregational Church wishes you a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!***

*Senior Minister – Paul D. Whitmore*

*Associate Minister – Laura H. Whitmore*

*Student Minister - Julie Center*

*Director of Administration – Paul DiPrato*

*Communications Manager – Jackson Siegel*

*Church Secretary – Pam Poling*

*Facilities & Grounds Manager – Tim O’Neill*

*Music Director – Elaine DeGroot*

*Youth Choir Director – Phillip Bettencourt*

*Assistant Youth Choir Director – Marnie Kruse*


*Church Office – 203 255-1594*

*FAX – 203 255-4706*

*e-mail: [office@southportucc.org](mailto:office@southportucc.org)*

*Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*



 **Christ is born, hallelujah!**



**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.*

*Olivia H. Dunn, in memory of her husband, Wesley Dunn.*

*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 Bertram & Charlotte Miller.*

*The Miller Family, in loving memory of Chipp 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.*

*Peggy & Doug Moore, in honor of their children Maggie, Meredith and Graham,  
Peggy's mother Polly, and in loving memory of all relatives who are no longer with us.*

*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.*

*Jeff, Rod, Jenn and Stacey in honor of their loving parents, Hugh & Sally Smith.*

*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.*

*The Trippe Family, in honor of and feeling forever blessed and grateful for their parents and grandparents, Hugh & Sally Smith.*

*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.*

*The Vadas Family, in loving memory George, Mary and Paul Vadas, and their dear friend,  
Michelle Boyd.*

*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.*