



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 five o'clock p.m.

PRELUDE

“Unto Us A Child Is Born” *Brubeck*

“Greensleaves” *Crisafulli*

Elaine DeGrood, Organ

Brass Ensemble

Kenneth Tedeschi, Trumpet

Gretchen Perrett, Trumpet

Anthony DeQuattro, Timpani

INTROIT

“Jesus, Born On This Day” *Carey/AfanasiEFF Junior & Teen Choirs*

Arranged and Directed by Phillip Bettencourt

Today a child is born on earth.

Today the glory of God shines everywhere for all of the world.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, He is our light and salvation.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, He is the King of all nations.

Behold the lamb of God has come.

Behold the Savior is born, sing of his love to everyone.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, heavenly child in a manger.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, He is our Lord and our Savior.

Today our hearts rejoice in him.

Today the light of his birth fills us with hope and brings peace on earth.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, He is our light and salvation.

Oh Jesus, born on this day, He is the King of all nations.

Today a child is born on earth.

He is light, he love, he is grace

Born on Christmas Day.

*CAROL

“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)**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paul 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

“Let’s Go, Let’s Go”
Marnie Kruse, *Director*

Cherub Choir

(*refrain*) Let’s go, let’s go let’s go, let’s go:

Down to the town,
There’s someone to be found
Let’s go, let’s go, let’s go, let’s go.
Search for the boy,
who will bring us all joy!
Let’s go, let’s go, let’s go, let’s go:
We’re the shepherds,
and here’s our plan
Let’s go, let’s go let’s go, let’s go:
Find Baby Jesus in Bethlehem!

We sat in the fields
With our flocks that night,
The angel came, it was such a fright!
“Don’t be afraid,” he said,
“Good news! It’s joy for all of you!”
(*refrain*)

This day in David’ Town you’ll see
The Saviour who will set you free.”
And here’s the sign,” the angel said
“A manger for his bed ...”
(*refrain*)

We were amazed but then we saw
The sky was filled with thousands more
All angels praising God - it’s true!
There’s one thing left to do ...!
(*refrain*)

FIRST READING

The Angel

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.**

SECOND READING

The Magnificat

Luke 1:41,42,46-50

ANTHEM

“Mary’s Little Boy Child!” *Jester Harrison*
Phillip Bettencourt, *Director*

Junior Choir

Long time ago in Bethlehem so the Holy Bible say
Mary’s boy child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new king’s born today
And man will live forever more because of Christmas Day

While shepherds kept their watch by night they say a bright new shining star
I heard a choir from heaven sing, their music came from afar

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new king’s born today
And man will live forever more because of Christmas Day

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem that night
They found no place to bear her child, not a sing room was in sight
By and by the found a little nook in a stable all forlorn
And in a manger, cold and dark, Mary’s little boy child was born

Trumpets sound and angels sing, listen to what they say
And man will live forever more because of Christmas Day

Hark, now hear the angels sing
New king’s born today
And man will live forever more because of Christmas Day

*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)**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Whitmore

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.orgTo **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

“My Grown Up Christmas List” *D. Foster, L. Thompson-Jenner* *Teen Choir*
Phillip Bettencourt, Director, arr.

Do you remember me? I knelt upon my knee.
I prayed to you with childhood fantasies.
Well, I’m all grown up now and still need help somehow
I’m not a child, but my heart still can dream.
So here’s my life-long wish, my grown-up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need.

(refrain) No more lives torn apart and wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend and right would always win
And love would never end
Oh, this is my grown-up Christmas list.

As children we believed the grandest sight to see
Was something lovely wrapped beneath our tree
But heaven surely knows that packages and bows
Can never heal a hurting human soul.

(refrain)

What is this illusion called the innocence of youth?
Maybe only in our blind belief can we ever find the truth.

(refrain)

This is my only life-long wish
This is my grown-up Christmas list.

FOURTH READING

Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Phillip Bettencourt, Soloist

Adolph Adam; arr. Jonathan Bauerfeld

Zachary Kampler, *Piano*

Lonnie Root, *Cello*

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 world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

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, please tip the unlighted candle toward the lighted one. We will extinguish our 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 & nature sing,
And heaven & nature sing, And heaven & heaven & nature sing.**

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

**He rules the world with truth & 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

"The Heavens Declare" *Wetzler*

USHERING TONIGHT are Deacons Andrew Malkin, Oladele Ogunsuyi, Joe Pezzimenti, Leah Davis, and former Deacons Hugh Smith and Bridget Schulten, under the Direction of Tamberlyn Chapman.

THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM Director Trevor Uhl.

PLEASE LEAVE 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

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Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.





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

Havilande & 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 & Paul Whitmore in honor of their children Scott, Aleigha, Audra and Parker.

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

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