



# *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*

*Julie Center, Student Minister*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

August 29, 2021, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

**“Reflections”** *Wyrzten*

*Elaine DeGrood, Piano*

\*HYMN

**“Lord of All Hopefulness”** *(vv. 1-3)*

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust ever-childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Denise Caron-Quinn, Deacon*

**Leader: We gather today as God's beloved children –**

*People: however glad we are, however out of sorts we are.*

**Leader: We come together as a people called by Jesus into community –**

*People: so this becomes a place where all are welcomed and united.*

**Leader: We come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with each other –**

*People: and to worship our God, who loves us and draws us near now.*

**\*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.***

**RESPONSIVE READING – The Romero Prayer**

*Julie Center*

**Leader: It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.**

*People: We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

**Leader: Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.**

*People: No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

**Leader: No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.**

*People: No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

**Leader: This is what we are about:**

*People: We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.*

**Leader: We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.**

*People: We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

**Leader: It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.**

*People: We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.*

**Leader: We are prophets of a future not our own.**

## OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Ann Lillis, Deacon*

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2021 Stewardship Pledge Contribution** or make a plate donation, please text as follows:

**Text: 860-854-1995**

\$ \_\_\_ Pledge

\$ \_\_\_ Plate

To give **online**, please visit our website at [southportucc.org](http://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!*

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Receive these gifts, O God, as incomplete expressions of our gratitude and loving devotion. May they water seeds that one day will grow, lay foundations that will need further development, and provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

*Luke 11:1*

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

*Matthew 6:4-15 (NRSV)*

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our bread for tomorrow.

12 And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;  
15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

SERMON

**“WHEN OUR WORDS FAIL...”**

*Julie Center*

\*HYMN

**“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

**Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne,  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night,  
Before the rising sun.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**“Shalom To You”** *Young*

*Beau Allen, Soloist*

POSTLUDE

**“Minuet Gothique”** *Boëllmann*

*Elaine DeGrood, Organ*

***PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, PROVIDED WITH LOVE – FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE !***

***THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD NOW MANDATES THAT MASKS*** be worn in all public indoor spaces. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.

***ROOMS WITH A VIEW IS BACK FOR 2021!*** We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our annual fundraiser this year. Save the date! The Opening Party is November 4, and show dates are from November 5 through 7. Please contact Chris Philip at [cwmpilip@gmail.com](mailto:cwmpilip@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. He is looking for an Administrative Assistant, Auction Manager, and Volunteer Manager in addition to people to help with graphic design, digital design, advertising, PR and administrative duties.

***WE WISH PAUL AND LAURA WHITMORE WELL ON THEIR VACATION!***

Paul and Laura are currently taking a well-deserved break to disconnect and recharge until September 7. For all pastoral and church concerns, please contact our **Student Minister, Julie Center**, who will be covering for the Whitmores, at [jcenter@southportucc.org](mailto:jcenter@southportucc.org) or by phone at (203) 255-1594.

***PIVOT HOUSE MEALS BEING SHARED EACH WEEK!*** Every Wednesday in July and August, SCC has joined up with The Little Pub to provide a hot meal to the 50 men who are working to break the chains of addiction in their own lives.

***USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY*** are Deacons Denise Caron-Quinn and Ann Lillis who we thank for assisting Julie Center with today's service!

***WE THANK OUR TALENTED MUSICIANS,*** Beau Allen and Elaine Degrood for providing us with beautiful music during today's service.

***THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM LEAD – Thank you to Parker Whitmore*** for his help with the live streaming of today's service!

***THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS*** are given by Robin Marshlow with wishes for a lifetime of happiness for Robin's nephew, Gerard Mooney and his wife Caitlin, who were married on August 22, 2021. **If you would like to donate an altar flower arrangement**, dates are available for Sundays in September. Please contact Pam [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) for additional information - thank you!