



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

February 14, 2021, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

“Salut d’Amour” *Edwin Elgar*

Darwin Shen, Violin, and Elaine DeGrood, Piano

INTROIT

“Scherzo” *Schubert*

Carter Uhl, Piano

WELCOME

Rev. Paul Whitmore

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

(Verses 1-3, See Insert)

Senior Choir

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Ali Kralovec-Kirchherr, Student Minister

Leader: God of our hearts...here we are! We gather together in spirit to listen for your Spirit in our lives,

People: We’ve come with thirsty hearts, praying to hear your word.

Leader: We come with aching hearts, with ready hearts.

People: Praying for good news to comfort us.

Leader: We come with overflowing hearts.

People: Praying for a chance to share your love.

Leader: You, who know our hearts and hear our prayers.

People: Be with us now in this hour of worship. Amen.

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.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON
Minister

Julie Center, Student

SOLO

"Perhaps Love" *John Denver*

Phillip Bettencourt, Soloist

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Paul Whitmore

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2021 Stewardship Pledge Contribution**, please text the following:

To: **73256** Message: **Sptccgiving Pledge \$**___

To give to the **Sunday Offering**, please text the following:

To: **73256** Message: **Sptccgiving Plate \$**___

To give **online**, please click **here** to be taken to our website.

To **mail** us your offering or pledge, please send a check to:
Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890.

Thank you!

OFFERTORY

"The Gift of Love" *Hopson*

Senior Choir and Darwin Shen, Violin

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give love, and offer tangible hope to others, because God loves us!
We give with cheerful hearts, because we have so much for which we are
grateful. Receive these gifts, God, as expressions of our gratitude,
to thank you, now and always.**

SCRIPTURE

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life**

John 3:16

SERMON

“RADICAL LOVE”

Rev. Laura Whitmore

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Senior Choir

POSTLUDE

“Amoroso” Fiser

Darwin Shen, Violin and Elaine DeGrood, Piano

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**2021 ANNUAL GIVING! THANK YOU** to every person and family who has pledged so generously, together we have surpassed our goal of \$700k with \$701k in 2021 pledges. We are hopeful that we can have full participation in this year's campaign so that we can fulfill our ministries and missions to the best of our abilities. If you have not yet pledged, there is still time to do so! Please email/call our Business Manager, Paul DiPrato at [pdiprato@southportucc.org](mailto:pdiprato@southportucc.org) or (203) 255-1594. Or click **HERE** for the Stewardship page on our website.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:** Join our **Student Ministers, Ali Kralovec-Kirchherr and Julie Center**, for a meaningful and reflective start to our 40 Days of Lent, as we journey with Jesus through the wilderness to the cross. Be sure to stop by the church office before Wednesday to pick up your Ash Wednesday activity box. **Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. Join this service on our Livestream Channel.**

**OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES CONTINUES** with a special series on **Christian Mystics** for the Lenten period. This series will begin with an introduction to Christian Mysticism, starting with a two-part series on Saint Teresa of Avila. **February 24 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom with Rev. Laura Whitmore.**

**ADULT "LATE NIGHT" TRIVIA!** Back by popular demand, Adult Trivia returns **Friday, February 26 at 8:30 p.m.** Brush up on your trivia and get ready for some friendly competition with your church family! A link will be included in the Friday eBlast.

**CALL TO THE 178<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING** Our 178<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting* will *immediately follow* worship on **Sunday, February 28 via Zoom.** We will review the past year's activities, celebrate the election of new officers of the Church and adopt the annual budget, so together we can make plans for the year ahead. This is an informative meeting, please join us to celebrate this past year and plan for 2021!

**THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Sally and Hugh Smith in loving honor of their daughter, Stacey, who has taken such good care of them during the pandemic.

**WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR** along with our special musical guests, **Phillip Bettencourt, Darwin Shen and Carter Uhl** for all of today's music.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** If you would like to donate altar flowers, we would be very appreciative. Arrangements are needed for February 28 and March 7. Please contact Pam Poling: [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**WE ARE WORKING HARD TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PAPER WE USE IN THE SCC OFFICE.** If you prefer reading your digital newsletter and can pass on the paper version, please email Pam Poling ([ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org)) to let her know you want to stop receiving the printed Newsletter.

