

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

January 3, 2021, at ten o'clock

Liturgist, Jeff Provost

PRELUDE

“Manger Medley” *arr. Mark Hayes*

“Wexford Carol” *arr. Mark Hayes*

Darwin Shen, Violin and Elaine DeGrood, Piano

WELCOME

Rev. Paul Whitmore

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

(See Insert)

Sung by our Senior Choir Soloists

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Provost, Deacon

Leader: As our new year begins, we come to celebrate the presence of God in us and among us.

People: **And to celebrate God’s love expressed through the life and spirit of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We come to be shaped by Christ’s life, his message, and his ministry.

People: **We come as spiritual people, searching for ways to live out our faith.**

Leader: Like John the Baptist, we come seeking the strength to carry on our journey of God’s intent.

People: **Let us rejoice in God’s gift to us! Let us worship, in this strength, peace, commitment, and understanding.**

THE INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER *(Trespases)*

GLORIA PATRI

Sung by our Senior Choir Soloists

***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.***

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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Beau Allen, Shannon Doyle & Leslie Uhl

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we pray that our spirits and our souls become wider, broader, and deeper until we truly become reflections of your abundance in the world. Bless these gifts and the gift we make of ourselves, that they may be an example of your abiding love, for every person, of God’s creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

See Insert

SERMON

“PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD”

Rev. Laura Whitmore

COMMUNION

(Please take the elements in unison with the Ministers.)

HYMN

What Child Is This?

(See Insert)

Sung by our Senior Choir Soloists

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Gaelic Rose” *arr. Mark Hayes*

POSTLUDE

“We Three Kings Of Orient Are”

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***WE THANK OUR MUSICIANS:*** Beau Allen, Shannon Doyle, Leslie Uhl and Darwin Shen (violin) for today’s beautiful music.

***“FAITH AND FOOD” JANUARY’S WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT EDUCATION***

***SERIES*** Join us for this new series on ZOOM, ***“Faith and Food.”*** A joint church program between SCC and First Church Windsor. Student Minister, **Ali Kralovec-Kirchherr** and First Church Windsor Associate Pastor, **Peter Kralovec-Kirchherr** (Ali’s husband) will take you through a faith and food series featuring liturgies around food; food and food rituals in the bible; a create your own grace workshop; new research on food ecology; and a kitchen cooking show challenge! Wednesdays January 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 7:30 p.m.

***THE 2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING!*** As you consider your pledge amount for 2021, we lovingly ask you to do so with intentionality, generosity, and love. **If you have not yet pledged, if it is feasible, please try to make your pledge before year-end so that we can solidify our 2021 budget.** Click **HERE** to be brought to the Stewardship page on our website. Should you have any questions please contact Paul DiPrato, Business Manager at (203) 255-1594 or [pdiprato@southportucc.org](mailto:pdiprato@southportucc.org). As of Christmas Eve, we have received a total of \$462,849 in pledges, against our stewardship budgeted need of \$700,000. ***THANK YOU to all who have pledged to date! It is because of all of you that SCC can stay strong!***

***“THOUGHTS ON SCC” VIDEOS*** Be sure to check out this week’s video, featuring Ava Pezzimenti, by clicking **HERE**. Or head to our Facebook and Instagram feeds where they are also posted. Stay tuned for more messages!

***MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GROUPS*** resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join these discussion groups, please contact the office to get on the email list. We will be meeting remotely until further notice.

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Scriptures concerning the Life of John The Baptist

January 3, 2021

Rev. Laura Whitmore

Mark 1:1-9 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

And so, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Luke 1:1-80. Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.” In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary...

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Messiah to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Matthew 3:1-3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: "A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!"

Matthew 3:4-6 John himself had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then [people from] Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were flocking to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

Matthew 3:7-12: When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to the place of his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, produce fruit consistent with repentance. And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones! Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to take off His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn. But the chaff He will burn up with fire that never goes out."

Matthew 11:1-16 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who

have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 14:1-12 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, for John had been saying to him: “It is not lawful for you to have her.” Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet. On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted and had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. John’s disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES *Irregular*
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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Latin: c. 9th century

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, Sts. 1, 2, alt.

Tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1877-1954, Sts. 3, 4

VENI EMMANUEL 8.8.8.8.8.8.

Adapted from Plainsong

Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890

In unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by thine
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; Fill

REFRAIN

til the Son of God ap - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A - men.


What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

140


William C. Dix, 1837-1898

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7. with Refrain
Traditional English Melody

In unison




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;





Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.




REFRAIN



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.



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website: www.southportucc.org, email: office@southportucc.org

Senior Minister - Paul D. Whitmore

Associate Minister - Rev. Laura H. Whitmore

CHURCH STAFF:

Student Minister – Ali Marie Kralovec-Kirchherr · Student Minister – Julie Center

Business Manager – Paul DiPrato · Communications Manager - Alisa Ryan

Church Secretary - Pam Poling · Bookkeeper - Maria Bogatikova

Investment Manager - Nancy Long · Director of Music - Elaine DeGroot

Youth Choir Director - Phillip Bettencourt · Assistant Youth Choir Director - Marnie Kruse

Soloists - Beau Allen, Shannon Doyle, Leslie Uhl · Custodian - Sydney Sinclair

CHURCH COUNCIL

Ryan McClay ◊	Moderator
Cari Schott	Clerk
Joyce Hergenhan	ALM
Patti Spaght	ALM
Paul Doocy	ALM
Pat Riemersma.	ALM
Susan Kunkel	Carousel
Ann Lillis	Deacon
Denise Caron-Quinn	Deacon
Beth Santa	Education
Melissa Ogunsuyi	Education
Sherry Greer	Missions
Lisa Doocy	Missions
Tim Stuart	Trustee
Kristin Hathaway	Preschool
Tim O'Neill	B&G
Irene Santa	Music
Carol Lasseter-Rice	Fellowship
Bridget Schulten	Ex Officio

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Paul Doocy
Hank Greer
Cindy Jackson
MacKay Jameson ◊
Adrienne MacGuffie
Les Miller
Skip Morse
Jennifer O'Neill ◊
Dave Stuart

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Greg Berg	- 2021
Tim O'Neill ◊	- 2021
Devin Santa	- 2021
Mike Tanguay	- 2021
Stuart Tilghman	- 2021
Ellen Levinson	- 2022
Erno Bacso	- 2023
Ron Manning	- 2023
Jim Vadas	- 2023

BED FUND COMMITTEE

Oladele Ogunsuyi	Deacon
Bridget Schulten	Chairman
Sherry Greer	Missions

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristin Hathaway	- 2021
Melissa Ogunsuyi	- 2021
Jo Anne Parady	- 2021
Beth Santa ◊	- 2021
Leslie Uhl	- 2021
Christina Whittaker Haas	- 2022
Katie Keiser	- 2022
Erik Mayville	- 2022
Ellery Malkin	- 2023
Laura McClay	- 2023
Cari Schott	- 2023
Kassandra Savicki	- 2023

PRESCHOOL BOARD

Laura Amicucci	Director
Paul DiPrato	Treasurer
Rebecca Mallay	- 2021
Sharon Keiser	- 2022
Jess Miller ◊	- 2022
Leslie Uhl	- 2022
Barbara Evans	- 2023
Amy Sperrazza	- 2023
Kristin Hathaway	BOCE Rep.
Katie Holley	Parent Rep.
Stephani Whittaker	Trustees Rep.

MISSION OUTREACH BOARD

Lisa Doocy	- 2021
Elinor Biggs	- 2021
Mary Lou McGuire +	- 2021
Linda Murphy	- 2021
Andrea Pezzimenti	- 2021
Sherry Greer ◊	- 2022
Tyler Hathaway	- 2022
Kirk Jackson	- 2022
Bob MacGuffie	- 2022
Liz Waiksniis	- 2022
Barbara Evans	- 2023
Karen Jones	- 2023
Hedy Mosier	- 2023
Traci Provost	- 2023
Peggy Stuart	- 2023
Johanna Jackson	Youth Rep

BOARD OF DEACONS

Denise Caron-Quin	- 2021
Leah Davis	- 2021
MacKay Jameson	- 2021
Andrew Malkin	- 2022
Marjory Palmer ◊	- 2022
Jeff Provost	- 2022
Jeffrey Earls	- 2023
Ann Lillis	- 2023
Oladele Ogunsuyi	- 2023
Tamberlyn Chapman	- 2024
Sadhana Joliet +	- 2024
Joe Pezzimenti	- 2024

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Doug Goodman	- 2021
Dwight Holmberg ◊	- 2021
Laura Wilbur	- 2021
Irene Santa	- 2022
Peary Spaght	- 2022
Jack Ijams	- 2023
Ruth Merchant	- 2023
Ed Sanford	- 2023
Jeff Provost	Deacon Liaison

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Joan Fleitas	- 2021
Carol Lasseter-Rice	- 2021
Ann Lillis	- 2021
Hedy Mosier	- 2021
Jean Schluter	- 2021
Robin Marshlow	- 2022
Traci Provost	- 2022
Erika Wright	- 2022
Betsy Gillespie	- 2023
Amy Cawman	- 2023
Katie Traynor	- 2023
Marney White	- 2023

CARING TEAM

Tamberlyn Chapman Deacons

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Nickell	- 2021
Tim Stuart ◊	- 2021
Stephani Whittaker	- 2021
Jim Biggs	- 2022
Gary Johnson	- 2022
Joe Ryan	- 2022
Dave Stuart	- 2022
Katia Mead	- 2023
Bridget Schulten	- 2023
Trevor Uhl	Treasurer
Tim O'Neill	B&G Liaison

CAROUSEL THRIFT SHOP

Doug Goodman	- 2021
Gloria Miller	- 2021
Susan Kunkel ◊	- 2022
Janet Sherwood	- 2022
Karen MacDonald	- 2023
Amanda Marino	- 2023
Les Miller	- 2023

HISTORIAN

Sally Ijams - 2021

LAY DELEGATES

Gloria Miller	- 2021
Les Miller	- 2021

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Leah Davis	Deacon Liaison
Pam Poling	Staff Liaison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Doocy	Council
Joyce Hergenhan	Council
Pat Riemersma	Council
Patti Spaght ◊	Council
Jeffrey Earls	Deacons
Beth Santa	Education
Elinor Biggs	Missions
Stephani Whittaker	Trustees

◊ Denotes Chairperson

+ Denotes Scribe

◦ Denotes Vice Chair

ALM Denotes "At Large Member"