



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

March 14, 2021, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

“Ave Maria” *Bach/Gounod*

“Deep River” *Spiritual arr. Heifetz*

Darwin Shen, Violin and Elaine DeGrood, Piano

WELCOME

Rev. Laura Whitmore

HYMN

“For The Beauty Of The Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Ali Kralovec-Kirchherr, Student Minister

Leader: Thank you, God, for this new day!

People: And for our renewing gifts of hope, encouragement, strength and fresh possibilities!

Leader: With the power and presence of your Holy Spirit, may we take these gifts and use them to their fullest potential!

People: In worship and in life, we come ready to think, pray, become renewed and rejoice.

Leader: Be with us, God, and guide us in our life and in our worship.

People: Guide us in our actions. And speak to us the words we need to hear, letting your Spirit change us and empower us to be your people.

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

Julie Center, Student Minister

PASTORAL PRAYER

Ali Kralovec-Kirchherr, Student Minister

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 Each Day” *John Rutter*

Senior Choir Soloists and Darwin Shen, Violin

**The gift of each day rising out of darkness:
the promise of light and the birth of new life,
the dawn of new hope and a new beginning,
if we turn to the light;**

**The gift of each day stirring all around us:
the sights of the earth, and sea, and sky,
Forever fresh as the day we first saw them,
forever new as creation’s first day.**

**The gift of each day has been freely granted:
the gift of creation in glory revealed.
We thank you, Lord, for all its blessings,
we thank you, Lord, for the gift of each day.**

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we pray that our spirits & our souls become wider, broader & deeper as we become reflections of your abundance in the world. Bless these gifts & the gifts we make of ourselves that they may all be an example of your love in action. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around his home that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.

Then some people came, bringing a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Jesus; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven...I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

And the paralytic stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:1-5, 11, 12



Sea of Galilee. Taken at sunrise. Capernaum is on the shore to the left (north.)

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*Village of Capernaum. Archeologists discovered and unearthed in 1967 (CE). Capernaum is the only village on the northernmost shore of the Sea of Galilee. Sea of Galilee is visible in background. Since Jesus lived there with Peter and his mother for two years, “Jesus” house is actually Peter’s house. Immediately after Jesus’ death and resurrection, history documented that the house was turned into a primitive eight-sided church. Though this was known through historical record, it was not physically verified/discovered until 1967! Soon after its discovery, the modern structure in the upper right was constructed over the home as a shrine to both protect it and to allow people to be able to view it from above.*

*This is the exact and particular structural (foundation) and location of the home referred to in our scripture.*

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Artistic renderings of homes in Capernaum during Jesus' time.



Foundation of Peter's (and Jesus') House in Capernaum, shortly after it was discovered, and before it was protected by a shrine. When archeologists discovered this sole eight-sided structure, they found (still visible) that the interior walls were decorated with markings indicating it was the site of Jesus' home, and also indicated that it was used as a church. The ancient historical writings which mentioned these things, confirmed that they had in fact found the original site!

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SERMON **“PRAYERFUL, PERSEVERANT, POSITIVE PEOPLE, AND POWER!”**

*Rev. Paul Whitmore*

BENEDICTION

SONG

**“Blessed Is He”** *Schubert*

*Senior Choir Soloists and Darwin Shen, Violin*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**“Intermezzo”** *Bizet*

*Darwin Shen, Violin and Elaine DeGrood, Piano*

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES BEGINNING EASTER SUNDAY! Just as Christ brings new life and rebirth, our doors will be flung open to welcome you back for in-person worship! Join us for one of the following: **7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service** at Sasco Beach led by our Confirmands, **9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary** with special music with Timpani, Brass and our Choir, or **11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary** with special music with Timpani, Brass and our Choir. The 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services will be presented in the same manner. Church School for 3 year olds through Grade 8 will be held outside, during both services - children should go directly to the Barn for Easter Activities & Fun! Our 9:00 service will also be livestreamed. **RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE for EASTER and UPCOMING SERVICES by TELEPHONE ONLY PLEASE – by calling the church office at 203-255-1594, during regular business hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday. Easter reservations can be made any time until Friday, April 1.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES THIS WEEK: THOMAS MERTON, A MODERN MYSTIC Join Rev. Laura Whitmore this Wednesday night at 7:30pm to learn about Thomas Merton, an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist, and scholar of comparative religion. Join us on **ZOOM!** (Please don't click this link until the start of the program.)

OUR EASTER BASKET FOOD DRIVE IS UNDERWAY Join us in helping our greater community as we celebrate Easter. Click **HERE** to see what items are need and what you can sign up to bring. We ask that all items be delivered to the church by March 26. You may purchase the items yourself and bring them to the Church Office or you can use a grocery delivery service (Amazon, Peapod, Instacart, etc.) to have them sent to the office, or you can text a cash donation by **texting to the number: 73256** with the following message: **SPTCCGIVING BASKETS \$__**. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others!

HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER WITH EASTER LILIES Help continue our tradition of filling our Sanctuary with lilies for Easter! You may purchase a lily or lilies in **Honor of** or **In Memory of** your loved ones (this information will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.) If you would like to make a donation, **please respond to this email and give us the following information:** 1) The name of the person(s) you are giving the flower for and whether it is in HONOR OF or in MEMORY OF them. 2) Indicate if you will pick up your plant(s) after noon on Easter Sunday or if you would like to donate it to be delivered to some of our church members. **Each plant is \$15.00** To donate **online** click **HERE** Or to **text** your donation **Text the number: 73256** with the Message: **SPTCCGIVING Lily \$15. To mail your donation** please send a check to: Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890. If you would like to download an Easter Lily Donation form, please click **here**. Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God.

WE THANK THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM TEAM Trevor Uhl, Ava Pezzimenti and John Pezzimenti for all of their help today's livestreamed service!

WE THANK OUR SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST AND OUR SENIOR CHOIR SOLOISTS Beau Allen, Shannon Doyle, Leslie Uhl and Darwin Shen for today's beautiful music!

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED! If you would like to donate altar flowers, we would be very appreciative. Arrangements are needed for April 11, 18 and 25. Please contact Pam Poling: ppoling@southportucc.org

Southport Congregational Church
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Tel. (203) 255-1594, Fax (203) 255-4706
website: www.southportucc.org, email: office@southportucc.org

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Minister - Paul D. Whitmore Associate Minister - Rev. Laura H. Whitmore
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 Pfeiffer	Clerk
Joyce Hergenhan	ALM
Patti Spaght	ALM
Paul Doocy	ALM
Sydney King	ALM
Susan Kunkel	Carousel
Marjory Palmer	Deacons
Denise Caron-Quinn	Deacons
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
Adrienne MacGuffie
Les Miller
Jennifer O'Neill ◊
Dave Stuart

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Greg Berg	- 2022
Tim O'Neill ◊	- 2022
Devin Santa	- 2022
Mike Tanguay	- 2022
Stuart Tilghman	- 2022
Ellen Levinson	- 2023
Erno Bacso	- 2024
Ron Manning	- 2024
Jim Vadas	- 2024

BED FUND COMMITTEE

Oladele Ogunsuyi	Deacons
Bridget Schulten	Chairman
Sherry Greer	Missions

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristin Hathaway	- 2022
Melissa Ogunsuyi	- 2022
Jo Anne Parady	- 2022
Beth Santa ◊	- 2022
Leslie Uhl	- 2022
Christina Whittaker Haas	- 2023
Katie Keiser	- 2023
Erik Mayville	- 2023
Ellery Malkin	- 2024
Laura McClay	- 2024
Cari Pfeiffer	- 2024
Kassandra Savicki	- 2024

PRESCHOOL BOARD

Laura Amicucci	Director
Paul DiPrato	Treasurer
Elinor Biggs	- 2022
Rebecca Mallay	- 2022
Sharon Keiser	- 2023
Jess Miller ◊	- 2023
Leslie Uhl	- 2023
Barbara Evans	- 2024
Amy Sperrazza	- 2024
Kristin Hathaway	BOCE Rep.
Katie Holley	Parent Rep.
Stephani Whittaker	Trustees Rep.

MISSION OUTREACH BOARD

Lisa Doocy	- 2022
Elinor Biggs	- 2022
Mary Lou McGuire +	- 2022
Linda Murphy	- 2022
Andrea Pezzimenti	- 2022
Sherry Greer ◊	- 2023
Tyler Hathaway	- 2023
Kirk Jackson	- 2023
Bob MacGuffie	- 2023
Liz Waiksniis	- 2023
Barbara Evans	- 2023
Karen Jones	- 2024
Hedy Mosier	- 2024
Traci Provost	- 2024
Peggy Stuart	- 2024
Craig Gillespie	- 2024
Leahkay White	- 2024

BOARD OF DEACONS

Denise Caron-Quin	- 2022
Leah Davis	- 2022
Katie Traynor	- 2022
Andrew Malkin	- 2023
Marjory Palmer ◊	- 2023
Jeff Provost	- 2023
Jeffrey Earls	- 2024
Ann Lillis	- 2024
Oladele Ogunsuyi	- 2024
Tamberlyn Chapman	- 2025
Sadhana Joliet +	- 2025
Joe Pezzimenti	- 2025

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Doug Goodman	- 2022
Dwight Holmberg ◊	- 2022
Laura Wilbur	- 2022
Irene Santa	- 2023
Peary Spaght	- 2023
Jack Ijams	- 2024
Ruth Merchant	- 2024
Ed Sanford	- 2024
Jeff Provost	Deacon Liaison

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Carol Lasseter-Rice	- 2022
Ann Lillis	- 2022
Hedy Mosier	- 2022
Jean Schluter	- 2022
Robin Marshlow	- 2023
Traci Provost	- 2023
Erika Wright	- 2023
Amy Cawman	- 2024
Katie Traynor	- 2024
Marney White	- 2024

CARING TEAM

Tamberlyn Chapman Deacons

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Nickell	- 2022
Tim Stuart ◊	- 2022
Stephani Whittaker	- 2022
Jim Biggs	- 2023
Gary Johnson	- 2023
Joe Ryan	- 2023
Dave Stuart	- 2023
Katia Mead	- 2024
Bridget Schulten	- 2024
Trevor Uhl, Treasurer	- 2022
Tim O'Neill, B&G Liaison	- 2022

CAROUSEL THRIFT SHOP

Doug Goodman	- 2022
Gloria Miller	- 2022
Susan Kunkel ◊	- 2023
Janet Sherwood	- 2023
Karen MacDonald	- 2024
Nancy Pandolfi	- 2024
Les Miller	- 2024

HISTORIAN

Sally Ijams - 2022

LAY DELEGATE

Les Miller - 2021

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Leah Davis	Deacon Liaison
Pam Poling	Staff Liaison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Doocy	Council
Joyce Hergenhan	Council
Sydney King	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"