

# *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*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

April 24, 2022, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

“Song Of Faith” *Kuhnau*

“Lord, Speak To Me” *Schumann*

*Elaine DeGrood, piano*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

***“Morning Has Broken”***

**Morning has broken, like the first morning,**

**Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.**

**Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!**

**Praise for them springing, fresh from the word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall, sun lit from heaven,**

**Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.**

**Praise for the sweetness, of the wet garden,**

**Sprung in completeness, where God’s feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,**

**Born of the one light, Eden saw play!**

**Praise with elation, praise every morning,**

**God’s recreation of the new day!**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Jeffrey Earls, Deacon*

Leader: Gathering as an Easter people, we celebrate this day as another one filled with the love of Christ – who is alive, present, and active within us, through us and among us!

People: **We have watched as Jesus broke the bread of the new covenant with His disciples on Maundy Thursday. We witnessed His betrayal that very same night.**

Leader: We have seen Jesus crucified on Good Friday. We have heard His cries as He bore the suffering of all God’s people.

People: **And at last we beheld the empty tomb, a symbol of new life, abundant hope, and great joy for us all!**

Leader: Jesus is resurrected, and walks among us! Our God lives! Let us worship the risen Lord by honoring the life that is happening all around us!

People: **As we venture together into our future that is bright with hope, let us celebrate this day in worship and in joy!**

\*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.***

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

*Julianne Center, Student Minister*

*(Please sign and pass the Friendship Register Pads, found at the ends of the pews.*

*If you are a visitor, please give us your address.)*

ANTHEM

“Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us” *Geschke*

*Handbell Choir*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

*Jeff Provost, Deacon*

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Andrew Malkin, Deacon*

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2022 Stewardship Pledge Contribution** or make a **plate donation**,  
please text as follows:

**Text: 860-854-1995**

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

To give by **Venmo**, use @southport\_congregational

To give **online**, please visit our website at [southportucc.org](https://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 for your kindness and loving support!*

OFFERTORY

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er The Sun”

*Senior Choir*

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun  
Doth His successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where’er He reigns;  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King,  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*With the new life we find in the risen Christ, we give ourselves in service to others. May you receive the work that we do and the gifts that we bring, as a blessing in your service. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

*Timothy 2:1-3*

“You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

*Acts 4:1-3, 16-20*

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

They said, “What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; **for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.**”

*Exodus 20:16*

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” *King James Version*

*Acts 22:15*

“For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.”

*King James Version*

SERMON

**“Bearing Witness or Bearing Too Much?”**

*Julianne Center, Student Minister*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## "Seek Ye First"

Senior Choir, Congregation

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, Alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find,

Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you

Allelu, Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

## "The Strife Is O'er" arr. Whitworth

Elaine DeGroot, organ

## Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

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Latin: 5th century?

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934



1 Joy dawned a - gain on East - er Day, The sun shone  
 2 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do thou thy -  
 3 O Lord of all, with us a - bide In this our




out with fair ar - ray, When to their long - ing eyes re -  
 self our hearts pos - sess That we may give thee all our  
 joy - ful East - er - tide; From ev - ery wea - pon death can




stored, The A-pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.  
 days The will - ing trib - ute of our praise.  
 wield Thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield. A - men.


## How Great Thou Art




1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der  
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,  
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion



con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,  
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;  
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.



I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,  
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur  
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,  
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,




thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.  
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!


*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to thee;



how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

**CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS “GODSPELL”** We are excited to announce that the Church School will perform “Godspell” on **Children’s Sunday, June 12**, during worship. Rehearsals begin today during Church School, and all children are invited to participate. For children who choose not to participate, activities will be provided. Today our Church School guest leader is High School Youth Group President Aidan King. Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Kaela Cohen and Alyssa Santa.

**ADULT SOCIAL WITH PICKLEBALL, APRIL 29, 6 P.M.** Adults can sign-up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, while watching the fun! Food will be available through Super Duper Weenie and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by tomorrow, April 25. The rain date is May 6.

**CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION, SATURDAY, APRIL 30 and SUNDAY, MAY 1**  
This is always a special and inspiring weekend! This Saturday at 5:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary, our Confirmands will read their faith statements. During next Sunday’s worship service, they will receive the Rite of Confirmation. Our young people have prepared for a year for these services of faith affirmation so please offer your support by attending.

**2<sup>ND</sup> HOUR PROGRAMING IN MAY - A TWO PART SERIES ON PLANNING FOR LIFE!** *May 15 - A Final Gift.* Rev. Paul Whitmore will present Part 1 of this 2-part series. *A Final Gift* is a presentation with an accompanying handbook compiled by Laura which can greatly aid your family in dealing with the myriad details at the time of death, such as services, legal matters, etc. Many church members and friends who have used this handbook recommend it! Join Paul and learn all about this resource and the issues you want to consider before your family has to. *May 22 - End of Life Financial and Legal Best Practices.*  
During this second part of the series, we will have guests who are experts in the legal and financial fields to discuss the hows of implementing the practical elements of preparing your life’s final gift as they pertain to wills, bequests, estate planning, and other financial vehicles that help ensure your assets are distributed per your intention upon passing. The objective is to help attendees understand the latest on the legal and financial elements of life planning.

**THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER RETURNS! MAY 21, 6 P.M.** This very popular event is back, and we hope you will be there! We will begin with cocktails at the home of one of our members, break into smaller groups for dinner at assorted homes, and then gather back together for dessert at the Parsonage. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by May 2.

**WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR SOLOISTS, THE SENIOR CHOIR AND THE HANDBELL CHOIR** for today’s beautiful music.

**USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY** are Deacons Jeff Provost, Andrew Malkin and Carla Foster, under the direction of Deacon Jeffrey Earls. **USHERS ARE NEEDED** every Sunday - please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) if you would like to volunteer!

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** is in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship, hosted by Elinor Biggs, Traci Provost and Irene Santa. **Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future Sundays.** If you would like to volunteer, the Fellowship Committee would be more than happy to lend a hand. Please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM"** Techs Kendall Caron-Quinn and Jonathan Stekloff, directed by Mike Messina.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** were given by Tim Curtis in loving memory of his mother, Ellen Curtis. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**OUR LAST MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETING** will be held this Tuesday, April 26, at 4 p.m., in the Youth Room, with Julianne Center.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will meet tonight at 7 p.m.

**THE MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Paul Whitmore. All men are welcome to come and grow in faith and fellowship. Email Paul at [pwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:pwhitmore@southportucc.org) to be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic.

**THE WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Laura Whitmore. Join Laura to discuss current events, spirituality, and new psychological ideas and much more. The curriculum runs parallel to the Men's Group, allowing for conversation during the week. To be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic, contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org).

**CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:**

- \***SENIOR CHOIR** rehearses in Sanctuary, Sundays, 9:00 a.m., and in Music Room, 11:15 a.m.
- \***THE HANDBELL CHOIR** rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.
- \***THE CHERUB CHOIR** rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel.
- \***THE JUNIOR & TEEN CHOIRS** rehearse on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 6.