



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

December 12, 2021, at ten o'clock

Third Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE

“Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy” *Tchaikovsky*

Carter Uhl and Charlie Uhl, Piano

*HYMN

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”**

**Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

(refrain) Hark the Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.**

(refrain)

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings risen with healing in his wings,

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth born to give us second birth.

(refrain)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Laura Whitmore

Leader: Welcome to this season of light, life, and love.

People: *If there is any darkness in us let us leave it behind.*

Leader: For the season of light is upon us!

People: *“I am the light of the world,” said our Lord...*

Leader: “He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

People: *Let us “Arise, and shine! For our light has come!”* *Isaiah 60:1*

Leader: Let us celebrate this season of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy as we worship together.

*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.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Advent Liturgists – Oladele, Melissa, Alex, Luke Ogunsuyi, and Adalia Misenga

Leader: The season of Advent continues. For the last two Sundays, the frail light of hope and peace dared to pierce through the darkness of despair and violence and bring hope and peace into the world.

People: *We live our lives more abundantly when we live a life filled with peace and hope.*

Leader: Today, we light the Candle of Love as a reminder that love is the best gift we can give to each other.

People: *This light, too, must shine through great darkness.*

Leader: In the Gospel of John it is written,
“For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

People: *Help us keep your love in our hearts as we move towards the day of Jesus’ birth, so that we can bring love to everyone we meet along this journey of life. It is with hope in our hearts that we light this third candle of Advent, the candle of love.*

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Rev. Paul Whitmore

*HYMN

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

(refrain) **Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:**

(refrain)

**Sages, leave your contemplations brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star:**

(refrain)

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:**

(refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Julie Center, Student Minister

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

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

Thank you!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.
Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.

(refrain) Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest.
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest.”

(refrain)

In Bethlehem they found him: Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

(refrain)

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of greatest love, in the child of Bethlehem, you give us the gift of your own self. What we have to give, we give with grateful hearts. May our offerings help create love on earth, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PAGEANT: THE PRINCE OF PEACE

*Written by Phillip Bettencourt and Rev. Laura Whitmore
Phillip Bettencourt, Marnie Kruse and Jo Anne Parady - Directors*

Prologue

Narrators - Ellie Nickell and Kendall Caron-Quinn

“The Peace Carol” *Bob Beers* Junior Choir & The Heralds

Sophia Bacso, Steele Malkin, William Ryan, Lilia Stuart, Reed Thomas, William Wright

The garment of life, be it tattered and torn
The cloak of a soldier is weathered and worn
But what child is this that was poverty born
The peace of Christmas day.

(refrain) The branch that bears the bright holly,
The dove that rests in yonder tree,
The light that shines for all to see,
The peace of Christmas day.

The hope that has slumbered for two thousand years,
A promise that silenced a thousand fears,
A faith that can cross an ocean of tears,
The peace of Christmas day.
(*refrain*)

Add all the grief that people can bear,
Total the strife and the trouble and care,
Put them behind you and leave them right there,
The peace of Christmas day.
(*refrain*)

The branch that bears the bright holly,
The dove that rests in yonder tree,
The light that shines for all to see,
The peace of Christmas day.
The peace of Christmas day.

Scene One: Elizabeth and Zachariah

Narrator – *Rev. Laura Whitmore*

“We’re Expecting” Elizabeth, Zachariah, Mary and Angel Gabriel

Elizabeth – *Michaela Messina*

Zachariah – *Charlie Uhl*

Mary – *Scarlett Wrex*

Angel Gabriel – *Heidi Santa*

We’re expecting
Yes, we’re expecting, we’re expecting something we don’t understand.
We’re expecting.
You’re expecting?! Oh! you’re expecting
You’ve been chosen to fulfill God’s perfect plan?

The neighbors want to know, but do we even know?
Oh, can it truly be that God has chosen me
To carry forth the message that the prophets did foresee?
Oh my! Oh me!!

We’re (you’re) expecting
Yes, we’re (you’re) expecting. We’re (you’re) expecting something wonderful
Just wait and see!

Scene Two: The Angel Appears to Mary

Narrator – *Alyssa Santa*

“The Magnificat”

Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph

Joseph – *Johnny Schluter*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my savior.
Your soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
Your spirit rejoices in God.

From this day forth all generations will call you blessed
For the almighty has done great things for me
Bless his holy name!

My (your) soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My (your) spirit rejoices in God my savior.
My (your) soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My (your) spirit rejoices in God.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard On High” Seated

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

(refrain) **Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings which inspire your heav’nly song?**

(refrain)

Scene Three: The Birth of Jesus

Narrator – *Rev. Paul Whitmore*

“Away In A Manger” *Traditional* The Choir of Angels - *Adalia Misenga, Penelope Sforza*

Angel Soloist – *Amelia Uhl*

Shepherds – *Harry White, Scott Perkin, John Perkin*

Shepherd Boy – *Mark White*

Baby Jesus – *Ava Ruscito*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Narrator – *Tommy Wright* Narrator – *Johnny Pezzimenti*

“The Friendly Beasts” *Traditional*

The Friendly Duet – *Kendall Caron Quinn, Madeline Merchant*

Donkeys - *Brendan Hathaway, Crawford McClay*

Cows – *Emerson McClay, Griffin McClay*

Sheep – *Blake Schluter, Cooper Cohen*

Dove – *Parker Prince*

Jesus, our brother, kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable of wood
And the friendly beasts around him stood.
Jesus our brother kind and good.

I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother up hill and down.
I carried him safely to Bethlehem town
I said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

I, said the cow all white and red,
I gave him my manger for a bed
I gave him my hay for a pillow his head
I, said the cow all white and red

I, said the sheep with a curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm
And he wore my coat on that Christmas morn
I, said the sheep with a curly horn

I, said the dove from the rafters high,
Cooed him to sleep that he should not cry
We cooed him to sleep my love and I
I, said the dove from the rafters high

Thus every beast remembering it well
In the stable dark was so proud to tell
Of the gifts that they gave Emmanuel
The gifts that they gave Emmanuel.

HYMN

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” *Seated*

**O little town of Bethlehem how, still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning starts, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.**

Scene Four: The Star and the Wisemen

“Star Anthem” *Randy Newman with alternative lyrics by P. Bettencourt*
Star Soloists –*Ellie Nickell, Alyssa Santa* Narrator –*Madeline Merchant*

A star appeared in the sky that night.
A star that leads to truth and light.

It beams so bright the angels sing,
Hosanna to the newborn king

This special star that shows the way
Gives faith and hope on Christmas day.
This star that's shining from above
Fills the world with truth and love.

“These Three Kings” *Traditional*

Soloists: *Tommy Wright, Johnny Pezzimenti*

First King – *Alex Ogunsuyi* Second King – *William Hathaway* Third King – *Luke Ogunsuyi*

These three kings of orient are, bearing gifts, they travel afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(refrain) O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to they perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

(refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.

(refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its perfume arise, please accept this royal prize
alleluia, alleluia!, sounds through the earth and skies

(refrain)

HYMN

“The First Nowell” *Seated*

**The first Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

(refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel.

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and it continued both day and night.**

(refrain)

Scene Five: The Nativity

Narrator – *Carter Uhl*

“Mary, Did You Know” *Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene - Teen Choir*

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know

That you baby boy has come to make you new;
And this child that you delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand
Did you know
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod
When you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God

Finale

"Go, Tell It On The Mountain" Entire Cast & Congregation

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night.
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the savior's birth.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Joy To The World" Whitworth

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love and wonders of his love and wonders, wonders of his love.**

THE PARSONAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY *scheduled for tonight has been cancelled* because of non-Covid illness at the Whitmore home. May we all be healthy this Season!

THE GIVING TREE gifts are due today! Please bring your wrapped gifts with the red mitten tag to the Chapel. Thank you so much for your loving support of mission partners!

POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS Today is the last day to make a contribution towards the decorations, or to purchase a poinsettia (\$15). For instructions, please turn to page 12. Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service. **THANK YOU!** Your donation of poinsettias will add beauty and meaning to the holiday. Many thanks also to Alisa Ryan and Peggy Moore for the beautiful poinsettia arrangement in the Sanctuary, and to Tim O'Neill for keeping all of them watered!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA! All women of the church are invited to a Christmas Tea this **Thursday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m. in the Library**, hosted by the Women's Group. If you are able, please bring a nightgown or pair of children's pajamas, wrapped and marked with a description. These will be distributed to women and children in need.

SCC WILL BE ON CBS SUNDAY MORNING! Last week, our beautiful Sanctuary was the backdrop for a story about the song, *Christmas Time Is Here*, from A Charlie Brown Christmas. We were happy to host CBS reporter David Pogue and his crew and look forward to watching the piece next Sunday, December 19.

THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP GIVING CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN Our 2022 goal is \$750k in pledges through the participation from as many members and church friends as possible! **Currently, we have \$241,608 in pledges** so we still have a way to go. We ask that you **make your pledge as soon as feasible** to ensure we can fund the current levels of ministry, programs, education, and missions we have incorporated in our preliminary 2022 budget. Should you have any questions concerning pledging, please contact Paul DiPrato, Director of Administration, at (203) 255-1594 or pdiprato@southportucc.org.

Making your pledge is easy in 2022! You can do so in 3 ways.

- **ONLINE.** Scan the **QR code** (right) with your phone's camera and a notification will pop up. Tap on the notification and it will bring you to SCC's Stewardship Giving Form on our website. You can also navigate to the form from our website www.southportucc.org where it is found under the Giving tab.



- **Paper Form.** Mail or drop off the paper form included in your 2022 Stewardship Giving Packet.
- **Email.** Send an email Paul DiPrato at pdiprato@southportucc.org with your pledge information.

USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY are Deacons Sadhana Joliet and Leah Davis under the direction of Deacon Ann Lillis.

OUR APPRECIATION goes to all the children who participated in and helped with the Nativity Pageant this morning. Each child's participation was greatly valued. We are also grateful to Phillip Bettencourt, Marnie Kruse, and Jo Anne Parady for directing and supervising the production and handling costumes and sets. We also thank the Teen Choir for singing "Light One Candle of Love".

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN THE COURTYARD is hosted today by the Board of Christian Education - hot cider and cocoa, donuts and roasted chestnuts!

THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM" Techs Asha Joliet and Torin Schott under the direction of Parker Whitmore, Director.

THE CAROUSEL THRIFT SHOP is in need of costume jewelry - they are almost sold out! If you are able to make a donation, please stop by The Shop, Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - thank you!

THERE WILL BE TWO CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE, the Family Service at 5 p.m., and a Carol and Scripture service at 10 p.m. Special music will be featured in both services.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will not meet tonight but will next Sunday for the annual Yankee Swap. **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will have their last meeting of the year this Tuesday, December 14, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room, for the Christmas Party and Mystery dinner.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets this Tuesday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m., in the Youth Room, with dinner provided by Jack Nickell and family.

SENIOR CHOIR rehearses in Sanctuary, Sundays, 9:00 a.m., and in Music Room, 11:15 a.m.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR resumes rehearsals on January 3, 2022 on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.

THE CHERUB CHOIR rehearses on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel, and

THE JUNIOR CHOIR in Room 6, also at 9 a.m.

THE TEEN CHOIR rehearses at 11:30 a.m. in Room 6.



Christmas Decorations and Poinsettias



Please Help Us Beautify Our Church For The Christmas Season!

Your contributions for our Sanctuary Christmas tree and other decorations, or your donation of poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones, will add beauty and meaning to the holiday.

Please return this form or call the church office or email us at office@southportucc.org by **Sunday, December 12.**

There will be a listing of donors in the church bulletins on December 19 and 24.

Please share with us the following information:

Name of the donor, the name of the person being honored or memorialized,
and the number of plants you would like.

Each plant is \$15.

You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service ends at 11 p.m.,
or on Friday, December 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Remaining plants will be shared with members of the Congregation.

Please bring cash or send a check for the correct amount, made payable to
Southport Congregational Church
to the church office or mail it to
Southport Congregational Church, P.O. Box 366,

Name of Donor _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

_____ Number of poinsettias at \$15.00 each

_____ Contribution for tree/altar decorations

You can choose from several payment options.

- **Venmo @southport_congregational.** Please include the name of the person being honored or memorialized, and the number of plants you would like.
- **Pay by text:** Text to (860) 854-1995 and write \$____Decor, then send an email to ppoling@southportucc.org with the name of the person being honored or memorialized, and the number of plants you would like.
- **Pay online - click [HERE](#)** In the drop-down menu select 'Give to Decor'. In the comments field include the name of the person being honored or memorialized, and the number of plants you would like.
- **Cash** – pay at the office and provide form
- **Check** – drop it off at the office or mail to Southport Congregational Church, P.O. Box 366, Southport, CT 06890. Please include the form.