



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 21, 2021, at ten o'clock

PRELUDE

“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

“Sheep May Safely Graze” *arr. Kraus*

Elaine DeGrood, Piano

WELCOME

Rev. Laura Whitmore

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Senior Choir Soloists

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hide from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee. Amen.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Center, Student Minister

Leader: Let us gather together this hour in the grace, peace, strength, hope and good courage that our Lord provides.

People: **Because God has put a new song in our mouths, we will sing our praise with thanks.**

Leader: Because God not only blesses us, but hears our cries, let us put our trust in God's steadfast love.

People: **Because God's law has been written upon our hearts, let us delight in doing God's will.**

Leader: In our worship and in our life, let us celebrate God's grace and gifts in all that we say and do.

People: **Gathering in thankfulness and joy, let us worship and pray, committing all that God has given to us for the celebration of life and for the care of all God's 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

Rev. Laura Whitmore

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

“May The Lord Show His Mercy Upon You” *Rutter*

Senior Choir Soloists

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Compassionate God, you instill in each of us the desire to make your ideal vision come alive for each one of us as your children. Receive these gifts that they may grant new life to those in need, hope to those who are struggling, and freedom to all! Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. And when evening came, he was there alone... *Matthew 14:22,23*

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**And Jesus went away from there and withdrew...**

*Matthew 15:21a*

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Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

Matthew 26:36

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**When his disciples heard [about John the Baptist's beheading], they came and took John's body, and laid it in a tomb.**

**The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest for a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.**

**And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.**

**And after Jesus took leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.**

*Mark 6:29-32,46*

SERMON

**“THE SECRET MAGIC WAND”**

*Rev. Paul Whitmore*

HYMN

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

*Senior Choir Soloists*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE **“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”**

*Senior Choir Soloists*

POSTLUDE

**“This Is My Father’s World”** *Wyrzten*

*Elaine DeGrood, Piano*

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GUIDE TO USING AND MASTERING “THE SECRET MAGIC WAND”

1) **DO** it.

“The best meditator or one who prays

...is the one who actually meditates or prays.”

2) Take the **TIME**...**SCHEDULE** it.

Just as You Do with anything You Value.

Schedule the time - When you “Go Up to the Mountain” – as it were...

3) **DISMISS** the **CROWDS**. **UNPLUG**.

Unplug - the **Phone**, the **Email**, the **Music**, the **TV**, your **To Do Lists**, etc.

For a given time – for this 10 min., 30 min.,

unplug your responsible, busy and organizing mind.

And *remember* – *if Jesus could do it* with all of his responsibilities –
you can.

You are not more important, more needed or responsible – than Jesus.

4) Go to a **QUIET PLACE** – This is your **MOUNTAIN**

Go to a place where You Will NOT be DISTURBED.

“TREK up the MOUNTAIN”

This may be anywhere you choose where you will (hopefully) not be disturbed.

Sit on a **CHAIR** or the **FLOOR** with some Support.

5) **GET READY**

CUP your Hands in One Another.

Take a deep breath...and let it go! For as few or as many times as you like.

You might lift your shoulders, and let them drop, or roll your shoulders
– releasing any tension.

You might roll your head from around or from side to side – to release tension.

You might – let your jaw drop – and feel that tension release.

6) **BREATHE** –

Just gently notice your breath. In and out of your nose.

Breathing in, pausing by itself for just a moment, and then breathing out.

You notice it happen – all by itself.

Just noticing how you are on automatic pilot.

You are being cared for by God at this moment, and you are surviving.

You are safe.

And for this time “up on the mountain”
you do not need to be in charge, or have anything to do.

You might even begin, by recognizing this...and just saying...Ahhhhhhhh...

Just letting it all go – for this sacred time.

7) **ALLOW**...but **NOT FORCE**...WHAT **NEEDS TO SHIFT**
– to **SHIFT**, or **FALL AWAY**.

You may allow what needs to rise, to rise.

But don't force, or hold on to your thoughts, or get fascinated with your thoughts. Just acknowledge them, and let them drift away – like clouds moving across the sky.

And – return – to your breath. Your peace. Your soul. Your quiet – with God.

8) If You Wish, you **MAY OFFER, this TIME**: to **GOD**. To **YOU, YOUR SOUL**.

This is - NOT - “ME” TIME.

This is **GOD Time**,

This is **SPIRITUAL** – TIME.

This is **HEALTH** Time.

HEALING time.

RECOVERY time.

RENEWAL time.

...Just ask Jesus...!

9) CLOSE your **EYES**.

LET GO.

UNLOAD

ALLOW your CONCERNS – your Hopes, Dreams, Thoughts,

Tears, FEARS, WISHES – for YOURSELF & Those you Love –

To ...*FLOW!*

But Nothing is forced.

There may simply be space, quiet, and peace.

10) And **YES**, YOU MAY Pray for **Yourself**

Absolutely Pray for Yourself

THAT's NOT **SELFISH** –

That is Respecting who You are - as One of GOD'S CHILDREN.

11) So a) **UNLOAD, LAY It OUT** –

b) Be with God.

c) CARE FOR YOUR SOUL.

d) and **LISTEN...with your Heart and Soul!!!!**

12) **GOD WANTS YOU TO TAKE THIS TIME.**

THIS is YOUR MOUNTAIN.

Your TIME.

Your LIFE.

And GOOD for ALL.

13) **REPEAT.**

JUST LIKE LEARNING to USE A PENCIL..it TAKES TIME...

MANY MANY TIMES...to Get Used to It.

It MAY NOT FEEL NATURAL or COMFORTABLE AT FIRST.

BE PATIENT with YOURSELF.

JUST DOING IT – AND DOING it AGAIN...is DOING IT “RIGHT”.

THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given Doug and Katie Goodman, in loving memory of David Blackburn.

OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES CONTINUES this week with a special series on **Christian Mystics** for the Lenten period. This series begins 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 e-Blast.

SCC CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Be sure to check out our [website](#) for several recent sermons and recommended videos we watched in our discussion groups in honor of Black History Month.

CALL TO THE 178TH ANNUAL MEETING Our 178th Annual Meeting will immediately follow worship on **Sunday, February 28 via Zoom.** A ZOOM LINK will be sent to you in Friday's email blast. 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!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER:

a) In Print via Post Office?

b) Digitally via Email?

Or,. c) Both?

Please take a quick moment now and email Pam Poling (ppoling@southportucc.org) to let her know your preference. We are seeking to serve you better (and save some paper in the meantime if that is possible!

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.

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## Southport Congregational Church

P.O. Box 366, 524 Pequot Avenue

Southport, Connecticut 06890

Tel. (203) 255-1594, Fax (203) 255-4706

website: [www.southportucc.org](http://www.southportucc.org), email: [office@southportucc.org](mailto: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 Waiksnsis      | - 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-Quinn | - 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"