



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

SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 5, 2024, at ten o'clock

Communion Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Nicaea" *arr. Todd*

"Celtic Tapestry" *Rocherolle*

Elaine DeGrood, piano

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"The Voice of God is Calling"

426

The voice of God is calling, a summons unto all.

As once they heard in Zion, so now we hear the call,

Whom shall I send to succor, my people in their need?

Whom shall I send to loosen, the bonds of shame and greed?

I hear my people crying, in cot and mine and slum;

No field or mart is silent, no city street is dumb.

I see my people falling, in darkness and despair.

Whom shall I send to shatter, the fetters which they bear?

We heed, O God, thy summons, and answer: "Here are we!"

Send us upon thine errand, let us thy servants be.

Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;

But thou canst use our weakness, to magnify thy power. Amen.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Brad Sforza, Deacon

Leader: Come, hear what God has done, for God's promises are true.

People: We have come here today, to seek and feel and find God's presence.

Leader: God is transforming all of humankind!

People: And we celebrate God's transformation in the lives of others.

Leader: God is transforming you and me –

People: And we have come to celebrate God's transforming love for us!

INVOCATION AND 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

(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.)

Rev. Laura Whitmore

HYMN

"We Call Ourselves Disciples"

Infants to PreK are invited to Room 5 for childcare.

All other children will go to the Chapel.

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.

We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.

As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.

In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

The cup and cross before us, proclaim our hope above,

The sign of our Redeemer, the vessel of his love,

Once more the cross is lifted, the cup poured out for all.

When gathered at the table, we hear our common call.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

William Joseph Ryan *born September 21, 2009*
Son of Joseph and Alisa Ryan

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

As the living and loving spirit of Christ, we as this family of faith, receive William Joseph into our love and care. We promise to support him and his parents, in their effort to guide him in the way of life and faith, and will provide through our own example, the knowledge and love of God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Paul Whitmore

TEEN CHOIR DUET

“Seize The Day”

Cole McQuaid, Heidi Santa

Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Jack Feldman
Music Directed by Phillip Bettencourt

Open the gates and seize the day. Don't be afraid and don't delay.
Nothing can break us, no one can make us give our rights away. Arise and seize the day.

Now is the time to seize the day. Send out the call and join the fray.
Wrongs will be righted if we're united. Let us seize the day.

Friends of the friendless, seize the day. Raise up the torch and light the way.
Proud and defiant we'll slay the giant. Let us seize the day.

Neighbor to neighbor, father to son. One for all and all for one!

Open the gates and seize the day. Don't be afraid and don't delay.
Nothing can break us. No one can make us give our rights away.
Neighbor to neighbor, father to son. One for all and all for one!

CALL TO OFFERING

To give, **you may:**

Place your check or cash in the Offering Plate,

Text: 860-854-1995

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

Or, give by **Venmo**, use @southport_congregational

Thank you for your kindness and loving support!

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Love Has Made Us One” *Crane, arr. Nolan*

Senior Choir

One Lord, one faith, one heart,
One Spirit, and one God and Father of us all.
One Lord, one faith, one heart,
One spirit, and one church, united in the call!

We break the bread. We share the wine, with ev'ry taste, our hearts reminded of
One hope. God's love has made us one.

At this sacred moment, we gather in His grace.
Many are our voices, yet one song of praise.
We worship and remember the wonders God has done,
We marvel at his mercy, how His love has made us one.
His love has made us one!

*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

***Dear God, accept these gifts as offerings of our thanks and praise, and as a witness
to the refreshment and renewal that we find in you and in one another. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example
in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

*Wells Johnson William Ryan Joe Stekloff
Ryan Waiksnis Colin Verrengia Cole McQuaid*

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Robert Leffingwell Johnson Cole Robert McQuaid William Joseph Ryan*
Joseph Turner Stekloff Ryan Edward Waiksnis* Colin Taft Verrengia*

**Denotes baptized here at Southport Congregational Church*

INVITATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

WORDS OF WELCOME FROM THE CONGREGATION

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers, as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together, in the knowledge and love of God, as made known to us through Jesus.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

Communion is gluten-free, nut free and non-alcoholic so that all may be included.

*HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.

I have wept for love of them, they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION Response

“Edelweiss”

Senior Choir, Congregation

Come, O Lord, be with us; fill us with joy and thanksgiving.

May our hearts fill with peace, come with your love and surround us.

Friendship and peace, may they bloom and grow; bloom and grow forever.

Bless us now, bless our friends; bless all people forever.

POSTLUDE

“Recessional” from Royal Fireworks, *Handel*

Elaine DeGrood, piano

~~~~~

## **Our 2024 Confirmation Class**

### **Robert Leffingwell Johnson**

Wells is a 14-year-old freshman at Fairfield Country Day School and is attending St. George's in Newport next year. He lives in Southport with his Mom and Dad (Mia and Rob) and his two brothers, Henry and Lane. He grew up at Trinity Episcopal Church and was active there.

Wells plays many sports, including soccer, squash, golf and tennis. Wells lived in London for three years, sparking his interest in soccer. Wells loves doing water sports and swimming on the summer. He also does community service every month because he loves it. He is looking forward to attending the Mission Trip in June.

### **Cole Robert McQuaid**

Cole is a freshman at Saint Luke's School in New Canaan. He lives with his mom, Amy Cawman, his stepdad Tony Neumeyer, and his sister, Ella. He enjoys acting, singing and playing lacrosse and soccer. Cole has an especially strong passion for acting and was just accepted into his school's Advanced Acting program, after preparing a monologue for an audition. He prides himself on his commitment and loves coming to church and singing.

### **William Joseph Ryan**

William is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Fairfield Country Day. He has been attending SCC since he was a child with his mom, Alisa, dad Joe, and sister, Emma. William's favorite sport is baseball and he spends most of his time practicing. He also enjoys golfing and going outside with his friends. He also loves spending time with his family.

### **Joseph Turner Stekloff**

Joe is the son of Neil and Rebecca Stekloff. He has a sister Jessica and a brother Jonathan. He is a freshman at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. He enjoys playing sports with his friends. Joe likes to collect and sell sports memorabilia in his free time. Joe has an interest in business at school and you can find him many Sundays, up in the balcony as part of the Livestream staff.

### **Ryan Edward Waiksnis**

Ryan, is the son of Liz and Len Waiksnis. Ryan is a freshman at Fairfield Prep. He enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with his friends. He has a dog named Maizie and a brother named Jack, who was confirmed in the church. Ryan enjoys doing service projects, and is always helping his mom with the holiday food baskets and backpack assembly event here at church. He is also a member of the Fairfield chapter of SASO (Scholars and Athletes Serving Others), a not-for-profit philanthropic organization made up of mothers and their high school sons.

### **Colin Taft Verrengia**

Colin goes to Fairfield Country Day School. He loves spending his summer sailing and being out on his boat. His parents are Rob and Melanie, and he has one sister, Reese, and two yellow labs, Riggs and Oakley. He enjoys playing tennis and skiing. He is in the ninth grade at Fairfield Country Day and will start his sophomore year at Greens Farms Academy in the fall. He enjoys watching Formula 1 racing and his favorite team is Mercedes. Every summer he looks forward to vacationing on Block Island.

~~~~~

WELCOME TO TODAY'S RITE OF CONFIRMATION SERVICE where we celebrate 7 young men who, after a year of study, are ready to openly declare their faith and become full members of Southport Congregational Church by their Affirmation of Faith. Join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and cake in honor our Confirmands, provided and presented by the Fellowship Committee.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by the Board of Deacons in honor of our Confirmands.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN All Church School children will go to the Chapel with Phillip Bettencourt, Marnie Kruse and JoAnn Parady to rehearse for ***JONAH!***

CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS THROUGH PRE-K will be in Room 5 with Bella Baltierra and Ella Schott.

BIBLE STUDY WITH DAVE STUART: “BIBLE STUDY FOR BEGINNERS – BACK TO BASICS ON THE OLD TESTAMENT” - If you missed Dave Stuart’s Bible Study in April, we still have a few spaces left for the May series! Whether you’ve never opened a Bible or you just want to put what you know in context, join us for another SCC Bible Study! The group will meet in the Library on Wednesdays, May 8 and 15, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. (note that the time has changed to two 2-hour sessions). To sign up, please contact Dave at dstuart@southportucc.org.

ADULT SOCIAL WITH PICKLEBALL, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6 – 8 PM. - Adults can sign up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, all while watching the fun! Food will be available through Super Duper Weenie and beverages will be provided. **You must RSVP by May 12 through Venmo @southport_congregational** (“pickleball” in memo), or with cash or check in the main office. Cost is \$20 per person for unlimited food from Super Duper Weenie and 1 free cocktail (non-alcoholic drinks are free).

COOKIES AND BOTTLED WATER NEEDED FOR HANGTIME – SCC provides a monthly meal for the HangTime meetings, where attendees - specific ex-offenders, groups and gang members - meet to educate and problem solve through discussion. **Mission Outreach Board member Andrew Malkin is asking for volunteers to contribute cookies or bottled water to the next meal on May 28.** To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

THE MUSICAL - JONAH! will be presented during worship on Celebration Sunday, **June 9**. After that service, the All-Church Picnic will be held at the Parsonage - dress casually for church and enjoy the fun day!

LOOKING FOR A PROM DRESS? COME TO THE CAROUSEL - Shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR TODAY’S PARTICIPATION:

LIVESTREAM “DREAM TEAM” Techs Andrew Salem and Asha Joliet, directed by Parker Whitmore.

DEACONS: Elizabeth Fera, Marjory Palmer, Katie Traynor and Beth Santa, under the direction of Deacon Brad Sforza.