

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2017

Sayville Congregational

United Church of Christ

PROPHETS OF A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kin[g]dom is not only beyond our efforts,

it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kin[g]dom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church’s mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:

 We plant seeds that one day will grow.

 We water seeds already planted,

 knowing that they hold future promise.

 We lay foundations

 that will need further development.

 We provide yeast that produces

 effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder

and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

*Written by Archbishop Oscar Romero, martyred in El Salvador on March 24th, 1980*

**Welcome**

**The Bell is Rung**

**Prelude** *“Prelude No. 4, in E minor”* from 24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87

 by Dmitri Shostakovich

**\*Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 95)

Let us make a joyful noise to God!

Let us sing to the rock of our salvation!

For God is Good, all the time.

And, all the time, God is Good!

Come. Let us worship God together!

**\*Processional Hymn New Century Hymnal #582: O God of Earth and Altar**

**Unison** **Prayer** (**Together**) (Adapted from Romans: 1-11)

**We have peace with God,**

**knowing God’s love fills our hearts full –**

**in good times and not so good –**

**especially the not so good.**

**We are never alone, not for one second.**

 **Ever.**

**God is always with us. Always.**

*A moment of silence follows.*

**Assurance of Pardon** (Adapted from *The Miracle of Mindfulness* by Thich Nat Hanh)

The wondrous voice, the voice of the one who attends to the cries of the world; the noble voice, the voice of the rising tide surpassing all the sounds of the world; let our very being – be attuned to *that Voice* – and know how loved we are, forgiven and pardoned beyond all we know.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Gospel Reading John 4:5 – 42** The Message Bible

To get to Galilee from Judea, Jesus had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”

The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it?”

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.”

The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”

He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.”

“I have no husband,” she said.

“That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.”

“Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?”

“Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship God neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

“It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people God is out looking for:

those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before God in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship God must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”

The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When the Messiah arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

“I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn’t believe he was talking with *that* kind of a person. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion, she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, “Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?” And they went out to see for themselves.

In the meantime, the disciples pressed him, “Rabbi, eat. Aren’t you going to eat?”

He told them, “I have food to eat you know nothing about.”

The disciples were puzzled. “Who could have brought him food?”

Jesus said, “The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work the One started. As you look around right now, wouldn’t you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I’m telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what’s right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It’s harvest time!

“The Harvester isn’t waiting. The harvester is taking their pay, gathering in this grain that’s ripe for eternal life. Now the Sower is arm in arm with the Harvester, triumphant. That’s the truth of the saying, ‘This one sows, that one harvests.’ I sent you to harvest a field you never worked. Without lifting a finger, you have walked in on a field worked long and hard by others.”

Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman’s witness: “He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!” They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, “We’re no longer taking this on your say-so. We’ve heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He’s the Savior of the world!”

*Here ends this morning’s readings.*

**Children’s Message**

**Musical Praise** *“A Gaelic Blessing”* – Words adapted from an old Gaelic tune.

Music by John Rutter

**Sermon**

*A moment for reflection…*

**\*Hymn SPP #122 Deep Within Our Hearts**

**Prayer for Others and Ourselves**

**The Lord's Prayer – The Prayer of Jesus** (Please say this prayer as you *know* it.)

**Musical Praise** *“On the Willows”* fromGodspell

Words and Music by Stephen Schwartz

**Invitation to Give**

Thank you for your generosity in helping us to share God's love for all. We are grateful for all the ways you participate in the work of this ministry, and more than anything, we are most grateful that you are here. *Peace to all.*

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**We praise thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;**

**in grateful devotion, our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before thee, we come and adore thee,**

**We bless thy holy name, glad praises we sing. Amen.**

**A Time for Brief Announcements**

\***Closing** **Hymn** **New Century Hymnal #436: God of Grace and God of Glory**

**Benediction and Sending Forth**

**The Bell is Rung**

**Choral Blessing**  *“A Prayer of Saint Patrick”*

Words from Saint Patrick’s Breastplate; Setting by John Rutter

**Postlude** *“Fugue No. 4, in E minor:*

From 24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87 by Dmitri Shostakovich

**Announcements!**

***Thank you!*** To Lorraine Severin and Roberta Smith
and all who helped in hosting last week’s fabulous *All Church Luncheon*!

 *Every Sunday, I say! Every Sunday! ☺*

**Social Action Committee Meets today at 12:30 – 1:30 PM**

**“A Talkback!”** will follow today’s service from 11:25 - Noon!

All are welcome!

Stop & Shop Cards are available at coffee hour each week. They make great gifts and/or a great way to purchase your groceries while supporting your church.

General Contributions: As you may know, each United Church of Christ congregation pays its own bills, hires its own staff, and maintains its own facilities from the voluntary gifts of members and friends. Donations are accepted in the basket on Sundays, as well as through our online giving program or through direct payments from your financial institutions. Please call Heather in the office to answer any questions you may have about how best to accommodate your gifts to Sayville Congregational United Church o Christ. Thanks for you gift and especially for being with us today!

Upcoming Calendar Dates:

Monday March 20th 11:45AM Bible Talk in the Vestry: John Chapter 4

Monday March 20th 5:30 PM Having Friends Inn Outreach, Fellowship Hall

Monday March 20th 7:00 PM Sayville Congregational UCC Trustees Meeting

Monday March 20th 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday March 21th 9:30 AM Senior Exercise in the Vestry

\*Tuesday March 21th 7:00 PM No Tuesday meeting this week. See you Tues. 3/28

Tuesday March 21th 5:30 PM Having Friends Inn Outreach

Wednesday March 22th 6:00 PM Choir Practice

Wednesday March 22th 5:30 PM Having Friends Inn Outreach

Wednesday March 22th 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Thursday March 23th 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Vestry

Thursday March 23th 12:15 PM Senior Exercise in the Vestry

Thursday March 23th 5:30 PM Having Friends Inn Outreach

Saturday March 25th 11:00 AM Twelve Step Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Saturday March 25th Family Table Distribution

Sunday April 2nd 11:30 AM Muslim Educational Forum/Talkback

**Newsletters:** Are you receiving our weekly newsletters: eChimes and eChimes Justice Newsletters? Fill out the card in this bulletin or email ray@sayvilleucc.org or visit our website any time to read current and past newsletters at [www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org). Do you need these in print? Let us know: ray@sayvilleucc.org

**Upcoming Events!**

Muslim Educational Forum Sunday, April 2, 2017 11:30 AM – 1:00PM,

with Sister Sanaa Nadim, Muslim Chaplain at Stony Brook University.This will conversation will take place during our Talkback time following worship. This is the beginning of a broader discussion to follow in the months ahead, as we learn more about the lives of our sisters and brothers who are Muslim and how we can grow together in the love of God we share. Sister Sanaa is a highly respected leader of the Long Island Interfaith community, and we are fortunate to have her with us for this informative gathering.  Please be sure to join us.

The Spirituality of Addiction & Recovery: The Music of Those Lost & Spared

Sunday, April 2, 2017 - 7:00 PM; Congregational Church of Patchogue, 95 East Main St; 631-475-1235 ($10 suggested donation but no one turned away for lack of money) Featuring music of: The Doors, Janis Joplin, Amy Winehouse, Jerry Garcia, Prince, Whitney Houston, Johnny Cash, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Phish, James Taylor, Eric Clapton & John Lennon. Proceeds support the outreach ministries of Congregational Church of Patchogue.

**Lenten, Passion Week and Easter Worship**

March 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent Psalm 23

April 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent Psalm 130 Communion Sunday

April 9 Palm Sunday Psalm 118; Matthew 21:1 – 11

April 13 Maundy Thursday 8:00 PM

April 14 Good Friday Sanctuary Open 11 AM – 4:00 PM

April 16 Easter Sunday Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

 Sunrise Service Depart Sayville Ferry at 6:00 AM; Board 5:45 AM

 Morning Service 10:00 AM - Sanctuary

**Hospitality Hosts, Greeters, Ushers, Projectionists Needed!**

Please sign up to assist in worship for Sundays throughout 2017 If you can help in any of these ways, please sign up on the in the hallway. Feel free to contact Sue Lanchantin to serve as an Usher or a Greeter.

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For more than a century and a half, Sayville's Congregational Church has served families on the South Shore and been a voice for the progressive Protestant tradition. A member of the United Church of Christ since it was established in 1957, today we continue to celebrate God's love, to speak for the oppressed, and to welcome those rejected by other churches. To learn about membership, please speak with any deacon.

**Music Director** Sean Cameron

**Greeter/Ushers** Gail Acker, Marie Mandell

**Liturgist** Christe Dowling

**Projection Slides** Kimberley Reiser

**Projectionist** Craig Hicks

**Pastor:** Ray Bagnuolo, ray@sayvilleucc.org

 New Number: 631-827-8611 (Cell/Text)

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

*Thank you for being with us today.*

*Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.*

*“Namaste”*