

The Third Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, April 30, 2017

About those on their way to Emmaus, this morning’s reading…

“They may have been going home, going there on business, or just going there to get away from the terrible things they had witnessed in Jerusalem. Frederick Buechner interprets Emmaus as

the place we go to escape—a bar, a movie, whatever it is we throw up our hands and say, “Let the whole damned thing go hang. It makes no difference anyway.” …Emmaus may be buying a new suit or a new car or smoking more cigarettes than you really want, or reading a second-rate novel or even writing one. Emmaus may be going to church on Sunday. Emmaus is whatever we do or wherever we go to make ourselves forget that the whole world holds nothing sacred: that even the wisest and bravest and loveliest decay and die; that even the noblest ideas that [folks] have had—ideas about love and freedom and justice—have always in time been twisted out of shape by selfish [folks] for selfish ends.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmauses, in the ordinary places and experiences of our lives, and in the places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. The story warns us, however, that the Lord may come to us in unfamiliar guises, when we least expect…[[2]](#footnote-2)”

**Ray** *Welcome*

**Bell Ringer/Sean** *Bell is rung after the welcome at least 10 times.*

*Sean will begin playing around the 10th ring of the bell.*

**Sean Prelude**

**Liturgist** *Read Call to Worship from the rear of the sanctuary. Processional holds.*

**\*Please join me in the call to worship:**

**\*Call to Worship**

We walk and sit alongside each another,

 sometimes…

 a stranger…

 sometimes not!

Are you the stranger today?

Are you on a path or seat next to someone you may not know?

Just to make sure, turn to the person next to you.

Smile and say, “Good Morning.”

That was easy!

A surprise greeting and a way of calling us to worship

on this morning’s Road to Emmaus…

Come, let us journey together!

**\*Processional Hymn NCH #257 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!**

*Processional:*

* *Ray and Liturgist move to the chancel*
* *Liturgist moves to lectern standing there through the hymn*
* *Choir moves to be seated on the chancel*
* *Choir sits at the end of the hymn (all are seated)*
* *Liturgist remains standing to read and lead the Unison Prayer*

**Liturgist** *Please be seated, joining me in praying our Unison Prayer:*

**Draw near to us dear Jesus.**

**We seek to be near you -**

**this and every hour, on this and every path.**

**When our hearts are heavy or our spirits are light,**

**Dear Friend,**

**reveal your presence to us, so we may reveal you to others.**

**Draw near to us, Dear Jesus.**

**Surprise us with your closeness –**

**this and every hour, on this and every path.**

**So we pray…**

* *Liturgist is seated at the end of the Unison Prayer*
* *A moment of silence follows.*
* *When ready, Ray moves to the lectern:*

**Ray Assurance of Pardon**

There is no *other* in God’s world. When God is said to have replied to Moses’ request for God’s name, the answer was, “I AM.” We know each other less or more…but *other?* Is anyone really *an* *other?*

God, the I AM, forgive us when we see *an* *other* rather than “the you” we have yet to find in the person before us.

You assure us of your presence in so many ways, such as in today’s story of the travelers to Emmaus. As you reminded them, remind us…assure us of your love and pardon, through the gifts of invitation and hospitality we ensure for all.

**Ray \* Passing of the Peace**

 *Liturgist waits for Ray to return to his seat before beginning the readings.*

**Liturgist Gospel Reading Luke 24:13-35** from *The Message*

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?”

He said, “What has happened?”

They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn’t find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn’t see Jesus.”

Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

*(Continued on next page)*

They didn’t waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: “It’s really happened! Jesus has been raised up—Simon saw him!”

Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

*This is completes our gospel reading for this morning….*

**Choir Musical Praise** *“Alleluia! Love Lives Again!”*

 Words by Mary Kay Beall; Music by John Carter

**Ray Message for All Present (Youth & Adults)** *Of course…*

*A moment for reflection… Ray will cue Sean when to start hymn.*

**Choir \* Hymn NCH #283 Spirit of the Living God**

**Liturgist Prayer for Others and Ourselves**

Now, you are invited to lift up your joys and concerns before God and one another. Please wait for me to come around with the microphone so everyone can hear your request. You are also welcome to write your joys and concerns on the prayer card in the pew, placing it in the collection basket during the offertory. May we hear your joys and concerns?

**Ray Let us pray…followed by The Lord’s Prayer/The Prayer of Jesus**

**Choir & Thomas Maust Musical Praise** *“Happiness”*

 From the musical, “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner; Featuring Thomas Maust

**Liturgist 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. *We welcome your offerings at this time and invite you to place your prayer and information cards in the basket.*

**Sean Offertory**

**All \*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 your holy name, glad praises we sing. Amen.**

**All**  **\*Closing Hymn** **NCH #252 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

**Ray Benediction and Sending Forth**

**Bell Ringer** *Bell is rung several times. Let it ring and then a minute of silence, Ray may follow with the singing bowl…will let you know ahead of time.*

**Choir Choral Blessing** *“Alleluia! Love Lives Again!” Reprise*

**Sean Postlude**



*Please remain seated for brief announcements*

*and an introduction to today’s forum presentation…*

**Announcements!**

*For those who wish…*

“A Talkback!” will follow the forum that begins at the end of worship and continues in the vestry. All are welcome!

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***Today’s Forum***

*W*e share in growing awareness and concern for our sister and brother refugees, living in uncertainty and conditions barely familiar to any of us. To learn more of what in the world is going on, our **Committee on Refugee Action**will begin a series of forums and presentations today, following worship and continuing during our fellowship time. The committee has been hard at work preparing an informative interactive presentation on the plight of refugees, including the process of vetting for those seeking asylum. We will engage in an open and ongoing discussion to consider ways in which we as a congrega-tion and community can become involved in helping these sisters and brothers of ours.
So you know, at the end of worship, we will remain in the sanctuary to view a short introductory video on an aspect of the refugee crisis. From there we will move to the vestry to continue our discussion and enjoy the refreshments.

***Accompaniment Ministry Opportunities***

We are reaching out to request accompaniment for three critical immigration hearings. Since all of the cases are scheduled at NYC immigration courts, there will be no limit to the number of volunteers. The more support we have the better, especially since two of the cases are for young immigrants, one minor, and another is for David, a father of three.

David (Second Hearing); 201 Varick Street, NYC; Tuesday, May 2, 1:00 PM

Javier; 26 Federal Plaza, NYC; Thursday, May 11; 9:00 AM
David (Deportation Hearing); 201 Varick Street, NYC; Monday, May 15, 8:30 AM

If you are able to attend or would like more information, please contact Ray at 631-827-8611 or ray@sayvilleucc.org

Weekly Events:

**Bible** **Talks!** in the Vestry - Mondays at 11:45 AM & Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

This week we our consider the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2: 42-47 and John 10:1-10.

***Please Note:*** This week’s Monday Bible Talk will be led by those gathered. Materials are available after worship in the vestryI expect to be home for Tuesday evening’s gathering. Carry on!

**Choir** **Practice** in the Vestry - Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

**Having** **Friends** **Inn** in Fellowship Hall - Mondays through Thursdays at 5:30 PM

**NA** **Meetings** in Fellowship Hall – Mon & Wed. at 7:30 PM; Sat. at 11:00 AM

**Prayer** **Shawl** **Ministry** in the Vestry - Thursdays at 10:00 AM

Senior Exercise in the Vestry - Tuesdays at 9:30 AM & Thursdays at 12:15 PM

**Got cards?**

Marjean Postlethwaite, our former pastor Trevor's widow, is now living in the Memory Care Unit of the Jones Harrison Residence, where she was the organist and Trevor was the Pastor during their "retirement" in Minneapolis. Her daughter Martha tells us she is very "with it", and that she loves to get mail and calls, giving us permission to share her contact information.  If you want more info, call Connie 631-567-9411.

Marjean Postlethwaite,

Jones Harrison Residence

Devon Court #244

3700 Cedar Lake Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55416
Phone: 612-925-7160 (let it ring many times, please)

**Giving:**

United Church of Christ congregations 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. Please call Heather in the office to answer any questions you may have about how we can best to accommodate your gifts. And, please consider buying Stop & Shop Gift Cards to support the church. Available at coffee hour each week, a portion of their cost goes to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ.

***Newsletters*:** Are you receiving our weekly newsletters: ***eChimes*** and ***Justice Chimes*** Newsletters? Let us know: ray@sayvilleucc.org. Visit our website for more information. at [www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org). Do you need these in print?

***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, Sign up on the forms in the hallway or contact Sue Lanchantin for more information.

***Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ***

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.

***Today’s Leadership***

**Liturgist** Mike Jayne

**Choir** With appreciation for all our choir members.

**Accompaniment** Thomas Maust

**Music Director** Sean Cameron

**Greeter/Ushers** Gail and Ted Heyse

**Projection Slides** Kimberley Reiser

**Projectionist** Casey Cunningham

**Hospitality** Committee on Refugee Action

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

Ray Bagnuolo, ray@sayvilleucc.org 631-827-8611 (Cell/Text)

*Thank you for being with us today.*

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

*“Namaste”*

1. Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat* (New York: Seabury, 1966) 85-56. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Interpreters Bible, *Volume IX* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995) 482. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)