The Seventh Sunday of Easter



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, May 28, 2017

**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 till the end of the fist verse of the opening hymn.*

*“Please join me in the call to worship:”*

**\*Call to Worship**

We celebrate the vision God has given us through Jesus; a vision for all the world to share: a call to live into hope, free from the hold and imagined power of death. Only God holds us. Only God.

**We act on the imagination of Jesus, who teaches us. Jesus, who reminds us: we already have enough bread to go around, enough courage to speak the truth, and enough Love to overcome all things in Joy.**

We come here from many different places, to remember; to pray; and to be together with one another and the world. Come let us worship God as one.

**\*Processional Hymn**

*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:*

**Unison** **Prayer** (**Together)**

**God of vision and love, you call us to open our eyes, to see your face in each other. Sometimes that’s not an easy thing to do. Light of our lives, open our eyes to each other and the path you have given us to share. Forgive us when we misstep…**

* *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**

**Ray \* Passing of the Peace**

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

**Liturgist**

**First Reading Acts 17:22-31 “Sermon on Mars Hill”**

22-23So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, TO THE GOD NOBODY KNOWS. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

24-29“The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn’t take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn’t play hide-and-seek with us. He’s not remote; he’s near. We live and move in him, can’t get away from him! One of your poets said it well: ‘We’re the God-created.’ Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it?

30-31“God overlooks it as long as you don’t know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he’s calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.”

*“A moment to consider these words before we read this morning’s gospel.”   
(Pause for about 30 seconds)*

**Gospel Reading John 14:15-21 “The Spirit of Truth”** (The Message)

15-17“If you love me, show it by doing what I’ve told you. I will talk to the *Father[[1]](#footnote-1)*, and he’ll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can’t take in this Spirit because it doesn’t have eyes to see, doesn’t know what to look for. But you know this Spirit already because the Spirit has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

18-20“I will not leave you orphaned. I’m coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you’re going to see me because I am alive and you’re about to come alive. At that moment, you will know absolutely that I’m in my *Father*, and you’re in me, and I’m in you.

21“The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that’s who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my *Father*, and I will love those and make myself plain to them all.”

**Choir Musical Praise**

**Message for All Gathered “Mind the Gap!”**

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

**All**

**Liturgist Prayer for Others and Ourselves**

Now, you are invited to lift 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**

**Sean & Choir Musical Praise**

**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**

*Liturgist returns to the lectern for the Doxology*

**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 thy holy name,**

**glad praises we sing.**

**Amen.**

**All**  **\*Closing Hymn**

**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**

**Ray Brief Announcements**

**Postlude**

1. The use of the word *Father* is to reflect Jesus’ intimacy with God. We know God beyond any gender or pronoun, masculinity or femininity; God is in characteristics of all aspect of the human mystery. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)