



The Third Sunday of Advent  
"Shepherd's Candle"  
The Candle for Joy



*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*

*December 12, 2021*

*How far is it to Bethlehem?*

Randolf

Welcome

Usher

Ringing of the Bell

Sean

Prelude

"The Christmas Song"

by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé

James Cesare, trumpet soloist

Randolf

\*Call to Worship

Adapted from Isaiah 61:1-4

(\*Please rise or be seated, as you wish. Please pray with us aloud with your masks on, if you would.)

The Spirit of God is upon us all!

We have been called to bring Good News to the oppressed;

to bind up the brokenhearted;

to proclaim liberty to the captives;

and to release the prisoners and

reunite those separated from their families!

We gather and joyfully proclaim this time of God's favor

on us all,

A time of comfort and healing, of peace, love, joy, and hope

born in the birth of the One who is promised to us.

That one is here, now. Let us join together in such Presence,

on this Third Sunday of Advent and the Joy we raise.

Sean

Begins playing *One Candle is Lit* as Randolf reads the following.

Randolf

\*Lighting of the Advent Candle for Love

\*(Please remain standing or be seated and join us in singing the first three verses of *One Candle is Lit* for Hope, Love and Joy.)

Sean As we begin the lighting process, please lead us in these three verses.

Come surely, Sweet Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the Hope of the Age.

Come, wanderer where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Randolf \*Unison Prayer Adapted from "Don't Hesitate" by Mary Oliver

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate.  
Give in to it. It could be anything...but  
most likely you notice it in the instant when love begins.  
Anyway, that's often the case.  
Anyway, whatever it is...don't be afraid of its plenty!  
Joy is not made to be a crumb!

Randolf \*Passing of the Peace  
(\*Please rise or be seated.)

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

\*(Please remain standing, if you wish, and join us in signing  
"My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise," Hymn #106 in the New Century Hymnal)

Sean

\*Hymn "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

New Century Hymnal #106

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me.  
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.  
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace  
To those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.  
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.  
The hungry all are satisfied; the greedy sent away.  
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,  
for God has come in power to save, to set the people free.  
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,  
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

Randolf

Joys and Concerns...

We take this time to share our Joys and Concern with one another. While we navigate this time of safe practices, we refrain from passing a microphone. Please wait for Ray who will repeat your Joys and Concerns for all to hear...

Randolf

\*The Prayer of Jesus

\*(Please rise or be seated and join us in praying the Prayer of Jesus, as you learned to pray.)

Creator God who is in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory forever, Amen.

Randolf      First Reading      Isaiah 12:2-3      (Please be seated)

You are my deliverer, O God!  
I trust you and am no longer afraid of you –  
you are my strength and my refuge.  
You are my deliverer.”  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.”

Sean      “Pour Out Your Spirit”      Sing! Prayer and Praise #57

From the sacred waters of my birth  
to the sacred waters of this hour,  
I have upon You who knit me in my mother’s womb.  
O pour out Your Spirit now.

Randolf      Gospel Reading      Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You pack of snakes! Who warned you to escape the wrath to come? Produce good fruit as a sign of your repentance. And don’t presume to say to yourselves, “We have Sarah and Abraham as our mother and father,” for I tell you that God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones. The axe is already laid at the root of the tree; every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be cut down and tossed into the fire.”

When the people asked him, “What should we do?” John replied, “Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none. Let those who have food do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to John, “Teacher, what are we to do?”

John answer them common “Exact nothing over and above your fixed amount.”

Soldiers likewise asked, “What about us?” John told him, “Don’t bully anyone. Don’t accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay.”

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, “I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This one will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fork is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire.” Using exhortations like these, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.

Ray Provocation

Sean Please join us in singing “Who Would Think That What Was Needed”  
Hymn # 153 in the New Century Hymnal

Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas day.

Shepherds watch and sages wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place none would reckon hosts a holy helpless thing;  
Stabled beasts and passing strangers watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas day.

Centuries of skill and science span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether with such progress we improve.  
In our search for sense and meaning, lest our hopes and humor fray.  
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas day.



Ray Communion Prayer

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Ray Jesus said:  
I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Randolf In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to experience again the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

In this place as in all places, it is indeed right to always bring thanks to you. You Creator God, Christ and Spirit are our Divine path of all that is – and then more.

You are the Universe's Guarantor:  
Hope. Justice. Peace. Joy.  
And virtues we have yet to learn.  
All these are your gifts to us.  
May this meal nourish us in them all.

Ray The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Drink

Sean \*Church Covenant – Sung in Unison  
\*(Please remain seated and join us in singing.)

In response to God's love,  
we covenant with each other to be faithful  
to the demands and inspiration of the eternal spirit,  
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;  
to accept and respect each other with love and concern  
in our worship and witness;  
to reach out with the courage of our convictions  
in the cause of justice, liberation and equality for all;  
In this, we covenant to keep the ultimate promise;  
"I care, I am with you."

Ray \*Benediction & Sending Forth  
(\*Please rise if you wish.)

Usher Ringing of the Bell

Sean Postlude "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring" The Chancel Choir  
by J.S. Bach, Arranged by Robert Bridges



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. An original 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 seeking a spiritual home. To learn about our congregation and membership, please speak with any deacon.

Today's Worship Leadership

Liturgist – Randolph Pearson

Music Director – Sean Cameron

Trumpet Soloist – James Cesare

Ushers – Sue Lanchantin and Lorraine Martin

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,  
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

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Online Worship – [www.echimestv.org](http://www.echimestv.org)

Thank you for being with us today.

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

“Namaste”

Please contact Heather if you have questions or need any additional help.