



Joy to the world



The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

December 26, 2021

Welcome

Announcements

Good Morning, Everyone and Welcome...

Whether you are with us today in person or watching the live broadcast of this morning's worship. Thank you for being with us.

We begin today with news that Ruth Smith, a life-long member of Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ died on Christmas Day. With a smile and twinkle in her eye, Ruth would be quick to tell you that this was "Her church" anytime you asked. Baptized here somewhere around 1919, Ruth's 103rd birthday is tomorrow. Our prayers and love embrace Ruth's family and friends, as we celebrate her life, and mourn her passing...knowing that heaven had one very special arrival on Christmas Day!

Arrangements will be available soon. We will let you know through eChimes, as well as online on our website.

And, Ruth was joined in her journey home with another "joyful soul" Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who also died on Christmas Day. In worship and Bible Jam, we have often used the book that the Archbishop co-authored with his good friend the Dali Lama called "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World." In the book he says this...

"You show your humanity by how you see others not as apart from others but from your connection to others."

In so many ways, friends, this is the story of our congregation and the deep joy that resides in our connection and relationship to others. Even during a time of loss, our connection remains strong, remembering the joy and the love we have shared and the memories that will always be with us.

And so, this morning, we join together in worship and listen to the hearts we share, as they speak to one another in a joyful language all of their own – on the First Sunday following Christmas and the last Sunday of 2021!

Let the bell be rung!

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

Words and Music by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

*Call to Worship

(*Please rise or be seated, as you wish, praying with us aloud while leaving your masks in place)

The *Language of the Heart* existed long before
languages (as we know them) were born.
It speaks in the wind, in the wind on the leaves
and the arching of the trees to listen in.

It speaks from beyond the nearness of stars;
from more deeply than the depths of the universe.
It needs only a heart to hear; such as yours;
such as mine.

It calls out as hearts do:
“You are Loved; Now, love in return.”

It calls out as God did that day when Jesus was born:
“You are Loved; Now, love in return.”

Adding as it always does,
“Joy to the World, my friends. Joy to the World!”

*Hymn

“Arise, Shine”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #68

Arise, shine for your light has come!
And the glory of our God has risen up on you like the sun.
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!

Arise, shine let the light of love shine through!
And the world will see the brightness of the new world in you.
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!

Unison Prayer "Once Upon a Time" Joseph H. Gilmore
Please be seated and join us in reading with your masks on.)

Once upon a time
when the world was not watching
and only You,
Holy One,
noticed;
we stepped into a river.
Now we are downstream
and very much has happened
to change us.
Ahead are unknown,
unknowable
waters
and, at last,
an ocean.

We move through time
with eternity
on all sides,
invited toward a vastness
of which we are
already a part,
if only we knew.
We are in a current of grace
on the way
to more grace
than anyone has ever imagined.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
takes us along
for the ride of our lives.
All things
are in it
with us.

Mountains are on their way
to sand,
then to the sea;
new mountains are being born
in fire
under our feet.

The sky we see
is not the only one there is.
Another is on the way.
Once there was a field
where my house is,
and there may be
a field there again
for all I know.

The baby you are holding
is headed
for someone else's arms,
don't doubt it.

We are all downstream
and the ocean calls
and between us
and the sea
are unknown,
unknowable waters
and we are in a current of grace
on the way
to more grace
than anyone has ever imagined.

Dear God,
what a ride.

*Passing of the Peace

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Hymn "God of Inspiration" Sing! Prayer and Praise #71 vs. 1

To the One who paints the colors into the sunsets of the sky,
To the One who shapes the plants and creatures infinite design,
For the unsymmetric symmetry of the sparrow, the oak, the rose,
For the ever-changing tapestry that feeds the eye an soul.

We praise You, O God of Inspiration.
We praise You, for breathing life through creation
O we praise You, praise You. We praise you God
for the canvas of our lives.

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...

*The Prayer of Jesus

*(Please rise or be seated and join us in praying the Prayer of Jesus.)

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.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when Jesus was twelve, they went up for the celebration as was their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph. Thinking Jesus was in their caravan, they continue their journey for the day, looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Not finding Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day, they came upon Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been so worried, looking for you." Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Abba's house?"

But they didn't understand what he had told them. Then Jesus went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Mary stored these things in her heart, and Jesus grew in wisdom, in years and in favor with God and people alike.

A Few Words...

Video "Mary, Did You Know" Marieann Meringolo

Benediction Church Covenant

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 i
n 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."

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "Joy to the World" Traditional,
Arranged by Jim Brickman



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 of Long Island and has 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 advocate and act for the oppressed, and to welcome all those on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for joining us. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation or with any questions you may have for us. Merry Christmas.

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Tonight's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at
www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

*Thank you for being with us today.
Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.
"Namaste"*