



Welcome Announcements

Ringing the Bell

Prelude "At The River" Traditional tune

Arranged by Aaron Copland

*Call to Worship

(*Please rise or be seated, as you wish, joining with us in response.)

Light does more than shine or illumine. It does more than bring into view what is often difficult to see

It is does more, this Radiance, than traverse the universe, warming planets and us "far" from its source.

Light is more. As God is more. And God and Light are here; today; in the gift we share in the Light we bring together, in the Spirit of God's Presence and Love—in us.

Hymn

"There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"
Sing! Prayer and Praise #33

There's a spirit of love in this place, There's a spirit of love in this place, You can't see it but it's there, just as precious as the air. There's a spirit of love in this place,

There's the presence of peace in this room, There's the presence of peace in this room, In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds. There's the presence of peace in this room.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name. O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place. Unison Prayer "A Psalm of Praise" by Elise Wysong Cesare

(Please remain standing or seated and join us in today's Unison Prayer)

Every day you Paint our world in colors bright. You shower us with your brilliant light. We will continue to Pray. We will continue to ask for your Blessings. You Bless us with your Eternal Light.

Even on the Brightest Day,
under the most Glorious example of your Brilliance,
we will Pray for your continued Blessings.
Your Light gives us life.
We need your Guidance to show us the way:
to inspire us to Brilliance in your image.

(Please remain standing or seated as we join in song)

*Hymn "Light of the World" Sing! Prayer and Praise #147

You are the moon you are a sun. You shine your light on ev'ryone. We offer praise for all you've done. Light of the world.

Light of the world in us reveal all that our eyes can never see. Show us a world, joyful and free, Light of the world.
Light of the world bring lasting peace. Justice and mercy for the weak.
Show us the paths our lives mistake, light of the world.

You are the wind you are the rain. You are the song, you're our refrain. You are the One who calls our names. Light of the world.

Light of the world in us reveal all that our eyes can never see. Show us a world, joyful and free, Light of the world.
Light of the world bring lasting peace. Justice and mercy for the weak.
Show us the paths our lives mistake, light of the world.

(Please remain standing or seated.)

*Passing of the Peace

Friends, welcome to this place of prayer and praise; light and love, blessings and benediction! With all this and more in mind, we greet one another with the Peace of Christ:

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you **And also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of this Peace.

(Please be seated.)

Joys and Concerns...

We take this time now to share our Joys and Concern with one another. Please wait for Ray, who will share your Joys and Concerns for all to hear...

The Prayer of Jesus

Creator God who is in heaven
Hallowed be your name.
Your kindom 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 kindom, the power,
and the glory Forever, Amen.

Hymn 167 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #

Holy, holy, holy God of love and justice, the whole universe and all that lies beyond it, ev'ry galaxy and flow'r, ev'ry singing bird and falling drop of rain is ablaze with your glory, glory, glory, O God most wonderful.

Blessed is the One who comes in your name!

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

"Tell me, if we proclaim that Christ was raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then all of our preaching has been meaningless—and everything you've believed has been just as meaningless. Indeed, we are shown to be false witnesses of God, for we solemnly swore that God raised Christ from the dead—which did not happen if in fact the dead are not raised. Because if the dead are not raised, then Christ is not raised, and if Christ is not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the deadest of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiful of the human race.

But as it is, Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all those who have fallen asleep.

Homily

"Church Covenant"

In response to God's love, we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demand 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.

Benediction

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "River in Judea" The Chancel Choir

Music by Jack Feldman Words by Linda Marcus Arranged by John Leavitt



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.

Today's Worship Leadership
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy
Music Director – Sean Cameron
Ushers – Fran Bergmann and Sue Lanchantin
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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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"