



Third Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
May 1, 2022

Communion Sunday



Meditation

"Ready I am to go, and my eagerness with sails full set awaits the wind."

"The Prophet" by Kahil Gibran

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Pua Lili Lehua"
Words and Music by Mary Puku`i & Kahauanu Lake

Call to Worship

*Please rise or remain seated, as you wish and join in this morning's **responsive**
"Call to Worship";*

We are ready, present –
We "stand" here, beside one another,
 eagerly drawn to truth, love, and action.
We are always in the midst of God's abundant love and power.

**We open our hearts in community –
extending our hands as "one" to all those here
and in the world that surrounds us.**

So, come Friends, into the sacred space of affirmation
and grateful praise.

Please remain as you are and join with us in singing.

Hymn

“Help Us to Be Present”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #80

Help us to be present, present at your table
to you and one another as we share this meal.
Help us to remember, remember You are present
at the many tables where we take our daily bread.
Help us to taste and see! Help us live what we believe
nourished by your grace.

O God within this bread we see, creations gift, our human need.
O help us taste your loving care, and graciously give, receive and
share.

Help us to be present, present at your table
to you and one another as we share this meal.
Help us to remember, remember You are present
at the many tables where we take our daily bread.
Help us to taste and see! Help us live what we believe
nourished by your grace.

O God within this cup we see passion for humanity.
Help us to taste your constant call to live in communion one and all.

Help us to be present, present at your table
to you and one another as we share this meal.
Help us to remember, remember You are present
at the many tables where we take our daily bread.
Help us to taste and see! Help us live what we believe
nourished by your grace.

Help us to be present! Help us to be present! Help us to be present!

Please be seated and join us in reading this morning's Unison Prayer.

Unison Prayer

A Shared Poem for Hopefulness

"For the Bird Singing Before Dawn" by Kim Stafford

Some people presume to be hopeful
when there is no evidence for hope,
to be happy when there is no cause.
Let me say now, I'm with them.

In deep darkness on a cold twig
in a dangerous world, one first
little fluff lets out a peep, a warble,
a song—and in a little while, behold:

the first glimmer comes, then a glow
filters through the misty trees,
then the bold sun rises, then
everyone starts bustling about.

And that first crazy optimist, can we
forgive her for thinking, dawn by dawn,
"Hey, I made that happen!
And oh, life is so fine."

[From the Author:

"Many times in my life I've been told by serious people that I must be very naïve to be happy, to have hope, to celebrate this little life I've been given when, actually, they say, everything is pretty dire. There's war, poverty, crushing injustice all over—what right do I have to talk back to all that with flimsy little poems about the good? What can I say? The birds are my teachers, my elders, my guides. Every day before dawn, in silence and darkness, I'm at my desk making poems on the page. And then, before light, I hear the first bird outside begin to sing." —Kim Stafford]

Assurance of God's Love & Abundant Grace

Friends, we are assured of God's presence and love simply by remembering it is so. This is God's grace, the promise of things unseen and the assurance that we are surrounded by such Grace.

Please rise....

Passing of the Peace

With this and more in mind...

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace!

Friends, please be seated.

Musical Praise "Dona Nobis Pacem" 16th Century
Arranged by Hal Hopson

Joys and Concerns

Friends, we now invite you to share your Joys and Concerns. Please wait for Ray, who will listen for your petitions and repeat them for all to hear, as we return to our safe practice of not passing a microphone. Let us hear your Joys and Concerns.

Please join with us in praying the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

The Prayer of Jesus from The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book
(He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father, Mother, Guardian of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:1-6

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find regardless of gender.

As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do."

Musical Praise "Down to the Water to Pray"
 Traditional, Arranged by Pepper Choplin

Provocation "Now what..."

Hymn "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"
 New Centruy Hymnal #331

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

Holy Communion

All are welcome at this table. All.

“The Bread of Life” & “The Cup of Blessing:”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Receiving of Offerings and Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.

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
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."

The Bell is Rung

Postlude "An American Tune"
 Words and Music by Paul Simon



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.

Thank you!

Deacon Elders & Deacon Trustees

Sanctuary Readiness Angels!

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Karen Maust; Ushers – Susan Ryan and Elise Cesare

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,

Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis, Hank Maust

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Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at

www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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