

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ October 16, 2022

Welcome & Announcements

Karen Maust, On Being a Member

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "At The River" Hymn tune arranged by Aaron Copland **Call to Worship** (from Mary Oliver's *The Invitation*)

Oh do you have the time to linger for just a little while out of your busy

and very important day for the goldfinches that have gathered in a field of thistles

for a musical battle, to see who can sing the highest note, or the lowest, or the most expressive of mirth, or the most tender? Their strong blunt beaks

drink the air

as they strive melodiously not for your sake and not for mine

. . .

and not for the sake of winning but for sheer delight and gratitude believe us, they say, it is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world I beg of you,

do not walk by without pausing to attend this rather ridiculous performance.

it could mean something.

It could mean everything.

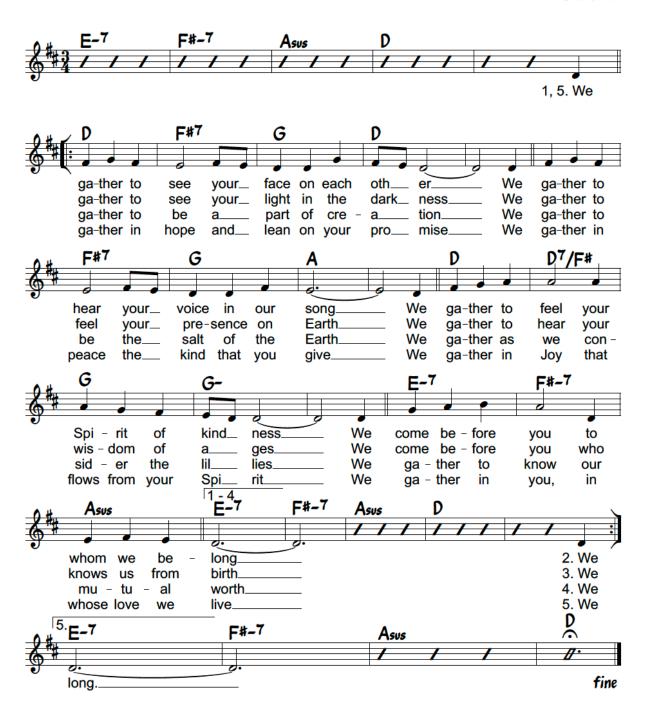
It could be what Rilke meant,

when he wrote

You must change your life.

Hymn "We Come Before You" Jim Ahrend

Jim Ahrend



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Please remain seated and join me in this morning's Unison prayer.

A Unison Prayer

"Will transformation. Oh be inspired for the flame in which a Thing disappears and bursts into something else; the spirit of re-creation which masters this earthly form loves most the pivoting point where you are no longer yourself." (*Rilke*)

Let the "yourself" we bring to each day grow and change and transform into the yourself we most wish to be; the yourself we are all meant to be. That one. Yes. The one God made us to be for others.

Chancel Choir "Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come" by Allen Pote First Reading The Book of Genesis (Genesis 32:22-31)

²² In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the <u>Yabbok River ⁽¹⁾</u>. ²³ After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, ²⁴ and he was completely alone.

And there, <u>someone⁽²⁾</u> wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. ²⁵ Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the <u>hip⁽³⁾</u>, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled.

²⁶ Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking."

Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me." ²⁷

"What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸

The other said, "Your name will no longer be called 'Jacob,' or 'Heel-Grabber,' but 'Israel' — <u>'Overcomer of God'⁽⁴⁾</u> —because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed."

²⁹ Then Jacob asked "Now tell me your name, I beg you."

The other said, "Why do you ask me my name?"—and blessed Jacob there. ³⁰

Jacob named the place Peniel— "Face of God"— "because I have seen God face to face, yet my life was spared." ³¹

At sunrise, Jacob left Peniel, limping along from the injured hip. ³² That is why, to this day, the Israelites do not eat the sciatic muscle that is on an animal's hip socket, because Jacob's hip socket was struck at the sciatic muscle.

For review...

⁽¹⁾Yabbok means "crossroads." The name is also significant in its similarity in sound to Yaakov (Jacob) and the word yaabok, "to wrestle or struggle." ⁽²⁾Literally, "a mortal." Tradition has called this mysterious stranger an angel, or God in human form. But the Hebrew in the following passage is almost completely lacking in proper names—each line of dialogue begins, "And he said," without any indication of who is speaking, a dizzying construction which gives the reader the idea that Jacob and the Other are mirror images of one another—Jacob in effect wrestling with himself, or figuratively wrestling with his twin, Esau, whom he is about to confront. Indeed, in the next chapter Jacob says of Esau, "Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God," which of course is what he names the site of the encounter in verse 30.

⁽³⁾"Socket"—literally, "hollow"— figuratively means power or essence; "hip," or "thigh," euphemistically refers to the genitals, and figuratively means the seat of one's being; and the word "dislocated" can also mean overpowered or alienated. So in saying that Jacob's hip was dislocated, the writer is indicating that he was struck at the center of his being, and that he was changed—losing his own power, but gaining God's.

⁽⁴⁾The name may actually mean "God Wrestles" or "God Rules." "Overcomer of God" is a double entendre: God, in the form of a mysterious being, is overcome, yet Jacob himself becomes God's overcomer or valiant one. Another translation might be " Dominion Getter." This is one of two biblical explanations for the name Israel; the other is " One w ho Sees God," an etymology referred to later in Genesis. Please remain seated...

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God New Century Hymnal #283

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. ¹ Jesus told the disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart: ² "Once there was a judge in a certain city who feared no one—not even God. ³ A woman in that city who had been widowed kept coming to the judge and saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' ⁴ For a time the judge refused, but finally the judge thought, 'Icare little for God or people, ⁵ but this woman won't leave me alone. I'd better give her the protection she seeks, or she'll keep coming and wear me out!""

⁶ Jesus said, "Listen to what this corrupt judge is saying. ⁷ Won't God then do justice to the chosen who call out day and night? Will God delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, God will give them swift justice.

"But when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?" Provocation

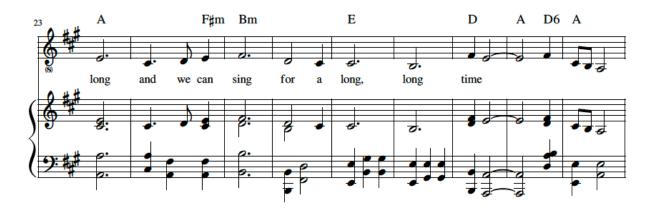
Please rise and join us in singing

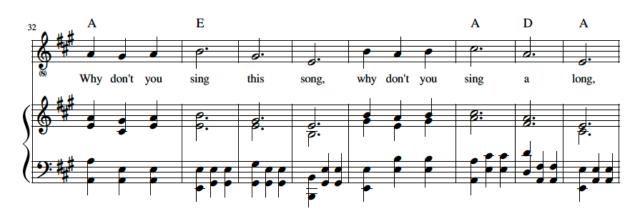
"Song of the Soul" by Cris Williamson

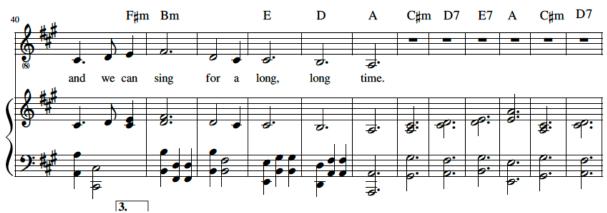
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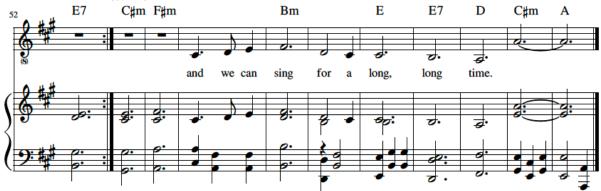
Song of the Soul











Please be seated...

Joys and Concerns Please respond, "**God, hear our prayers.**"

Please remain seated.

The Prayer of Jesus

The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (Adapted)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker,

Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Creator God of us all,

Loving God, in who is all about us:

The blessings of your name

echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed

by the peoples of the world!

Your will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come upon us. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, 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 for ever. Amen. Please rise...

Passing of Christ's Peace

We know God is with us; we hold the greatest of commandments to love as a practice, a way of life. And, with the greeting of the one who promises "peace" beyond all understanding, from our minds, our hearts and our souls we say:

"May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you!" And also with you.

Friends, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

Chancel Choir "Sing Community, Sing Peace" by Mark Hayes

Please remain seated.

Benediction

Please rise and join us in singing...

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. Please be seated.

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "What a Wonderful World"



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more nearly 175 years, 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, celebrate God's love, however you may know God, by our continuing to advocate for the oppressed, while welcoming all on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for being with us today. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation and questions you may have.

Thank you!

Sean Cameron, Music Director Liturgist – Michael Jayne Usher – Jenna Murphy Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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