



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
October 23, 2022



Welcome & Announcements
Mark Conrad, On Being a Member



Ringling of the Bell

Prelude "The Song Is You" from *Music In The Air Music*
by Jerome Kern, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Call to Worship

Please remain seated as Kris reads for this morning's Call to Worship

We are a reflection of God's creation.

Begin and end each day with "Gratitude"
as a bookend on each 24 hours.

Carry the power of love and service and kindness –
Even in the midst of turmoil;
especially in the midst of turmoil.

Created to be free; embrace God's presence
in all creation given unto our care.

Come to this place, where wonder and gratitude;
service and kindness and wisdom grow, [overcoming]
The turmoil and deception with balance and truth
honoring what is most sacred in all creation –

The love we are called to reflect upon one another.

Please rise if you wish and join us in singing this morning's hymn:

Hymn: "No Matter" Sing! Prayer and Praise #35 vs. 1, 2

(Refrain)

No matter who, no matter what,
no matter where you are on the journey of life
you're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what,
no matter where you are on the journey of life
Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

For we are family meant to be purposed for eternity.
Born in love from above, God's community. (Refrain)

And in diversity, unity, harmony for all to see;
Justice and equity, God's community. (Refrain)

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

A Unison Prayer

All that exists is underpinned by Joy.

**Joy is an expression of a God called "Creator";
called "Universe"; called "Us".**

**We seek the "well-Being" of God's Love
showered upon all in graceful, abundant ways.**

**Help us Joyful, Creator, Universal, Graceful Loving God
to remember how blessed we are –
and teach us to care for others as you care for us.**

Chancel Choir

"River in Judea"

Words by Lidna Marcus

Music by Jack Feldman

Arranged by John Leavitt

First Reading The Book of Psalms (Psalm 84:1-7)

¹How I love your dwelling place,
YHWH Sabaoth! (God, Host of Heaven!)
²How my soul yearns and pines
for your courts, YHWH!
My heart and my flesh sing for joy
³The sparrow has found its home at last,
The swallow a nest for its young –
On your altars, YHWH Sabaoth,
My Sovereign, my God.
To you, the living God!
⁴Happiness belongs to those who live in your house
and can praise you all day long;
⁵and happy the pilgrims who find refuge in you
as they set their hearts on the Ascents!¹
⁶As they go through the Valley of the Weeper²,
They make it a place of springs,
clothed in blessings by the early rains.
⁷From there they make their way from village to village,
until each one appears before God in Zion.

Please remain seated and join in singing “Spirit of the Living God”

¹ The Ascents are any one of the fifteen psalms in the series from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134 sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem or possible while ascending Mount Zion or the steps of the Temple.

² The Valley of the Weeper (Baca): Either an historical place name or a symbolic expression for deep sadness and spiritual dryness. 84:6a: “passing through the experience of deep sorrow, righteous ones can make it to the source of life.”

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.

The Gospel Of Luke **(Luke 18:9-14)**

⁹ Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt: ¹⁰ “Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee³ stood and prayed like this: ‘I give you thanks, O God, that I’m not like others—greedy, crooked, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’

¹³ The other one, however kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ Believe me the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn’t. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

³ “Luke’s presentation of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders is part of a theologically motivated literary inversion of ordinary society. The leaders of the Jews, the rich, the other established citizens, and sometimes Israel itself are pictured as rejecting Jesus and thus rejecting God. By contrast, the poor, the sinners, the non-Jews, and the outcasts like the tax collectors accept Jesus and salvation from God and “become” Israel. Anchor Bible Dictionary; V-297

Provocation

Please rise if you wish and join us in singing:

Hymn: **“Like a Healing Stream”** **Sing! Prayer and Praise #73**

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding
promising revival and rebirth - like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need - like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction
calling for an end to hate and war - like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

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

"Nobody's Better"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

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

"Singing With a Stranger"

Words and Music by Gabriel Kahane



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 – Kris Minschke

Usher – Hilda Baeza

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