



Second Sunday of Advent
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
December 4, 2022

Meditation

Religion is a more or less organized way of remembering that every mystery points to a higher reality.

from "Honey from the Rock" by *Lawrence Kushner*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"The Christmas Song"

by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé,

Arranged by Richard Walters

James Cesare, trumpet soloist

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Candle

We began Advent last Sunday by lighting the first candle, the candle of Hope. We light it again today to remind us to trust in God.

Next, we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah said, "Comfort, comfort my people" to a nation anxious about invasion and exile, as he foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Today, our world continues beset by disruption and

injustice and courageous powerful people who work for love and peace and justice. Isaiah's words still to speak to us, as does God's voice calling us forward.

Tradition tells us that Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn to give birth to Jesus, but there is always room in our hearts for peace and hope.

So, we light this candle to remind us of our togetherness and our trust in the promise we are committed to bringing to all: "We care. We are with you. Peace."

Please stand and join us in singing as the candles are lit

One Candle is Lit (Two Verses)

Come surely, Sweet Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our visions engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the day.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Please remain standing for our Unison Prayer

Unison Prayer

Speak to us, gently, gentle God. Come into our silence without the cares of the world to distract us – from you.

“Come to me,” Jesus says. “All you who are overburdened, come.” I will give you respite and gentleness and peace.

Let such a voice as we hear it in the silence or otherwise guide us in the ways of peace, for they are many.

Shalom. Salaam. Peace.

Please be seated and join us in singing

Opening Hymn “Spirit, Fill Me”

Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.

Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.

Help me give my hand to those in need.

Let my heart be open to receive.

When we share your love, we can work together

To heal this broken world. (2X)

Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.

Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.

First Reading Isaiah 8: 5-7a

For a child is born to us,

upon whose shoulders
dominion will rest.

This One shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

This dominion and this peace,
will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm
sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.

Please remain seated

Chancel Choir

"Give Peace Again"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

Gospel Readings: Matthew 3:1-6

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, “Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!”

It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said,

“A herald’s voice cries in the desert:
‘Prepare the way of our God,
Make straight the paths of God!’”

John was clothed in a garment of camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

Homily Communion

Hymn “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise”

My heart sings out with joyful praise
to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low
and changed my destiny.

The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their maker's will
in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just
to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones
and vanish like a cloud.

The hungry all are satisfied; the arrogant sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long
will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past
at last has come to be,
For God has come in power to save,
to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see
salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep
to wipe their tears away.

Please be seated

Joys and Concerns / 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 have trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Please rise and join us in passing the Peace of Christ

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

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by John Rutter

Please remain seated

Benediction

From "Am I Not Among the Early Risers" by Mary Oliver

Am I not among the early risers
and the long-distance walkers?
Have I not stood, amazed as I consider
the perfection of the morning star
above the peaks of houses, and the crowns of the trees
blue in first light?

Do I not see how the trees tremble, as though
sheets of water flowed over them
though it is only wind, that common thing,
free to everyone and everything.

Have I not thought, for years, what it would be
worthy to do, and then gone off, barefoot and with a
silver pail, to gather blueberries,
thus coming, as I think, upon a right answer?

What will ambition do for me that the fox,
appearing suddenly at the top of the field,
her eyes sharp and confident as she stared into mine,
has not already done?

What countries, what visitation, what pomp
would satisfy me as thoroughly as Blackwater Woods
on a sun-filled morning, or equally, in the rain?

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

Postlude

"O Luck Outrageous" Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub

there's an old cathedral on second avenue
tightly pressed between two buildings
the stained gl-ss peeking past bodegas
it is as you are to me:

A thing of ancient beauty
 glowing among the parlor
i walk by it and feel a heavy lightness
 rising in my shoes
and every stranger is an angel
for a second in ordinary glory, singing:
o luck outrageous
o pain courageous
o cheerful, fearful life

there's an old piano in washington square
a baby grand upon the concrete
concertos for the b-ms and tourists
it is as you are to me:
a thing of beauty ringing amidst the clamor.
i walk by it and feel a heavy lightness
rising in my ear
and every stranger is an angel

for a second in ordinary glory, singing:

o luck outrageous

o pain courageous

o cheerful, fearful life

i descend to the subway as the local arrives

and i hear the west side story

minor seventh singing in the rails

the stained gl-ss peeking past bodegas

it is as we are to me: it is as we are to me

a broken, searching symphony

a lover's pleas for memory

ringing, singing:

o luck outrageous

o pain courageous

o agile, fragile life

o luck outrageous

o love contagious

o cheerful, fearful

o cheerful, fearful

o cheerful, fearful life



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 – Randolph Pearson

Trumpet Soloist – James Cesare

Hospitality – Tom Esposito

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. Shanti. For the ways of peace
are many. "Namaste"