



## ***LEADERS – Thank you!***

*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
December 18, 2022*



For God so loved the world...  
from John 3:16



*So, too, are we. Welcome.*

## **S1- Opening**

### **Announcements**

#### **S2 – Karen: Welcome**

Good morning everyone, and Welcome to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. My name is Karen Maust and, as we like to say, “This is the place where you are welcome long before you arrive!” Thank you for joining us: in person and online. We have a few announcements and we thank you for your patience as we prepare for a busy week ahead!

#### **S3 – Karen: Frances Elsener**

On behalf of the Paul, Jo Ellyn, and Robert Elsener and all their family – thank you for your prayers and support following the passing of their Mom Frances. Your kindness and love has been of great support to them during this time.

#### **S4 – Karen: Home Viewers**

We also welcome all those watching online, who each week include Nancy Swezey, Robert Pierce, and Rev. Martha Moler, especially as she recovers from recent surgery. Greetings to you all – and if you are watching, please let us know so that we can say “hello” to you, as well.

### **S5 – Karen: Christmas Eve Services**

We are looking forward to seeing you for Christmas Eve, this coming Saturday. We will have services at 5:30 and 7:30 PM. We need readers for both and ask that if you are attending and would like to read, please let Ray know – either today before you leave or by Wednesday of this week. All are invited, we have plenty of readings available!

### **S6 – Karen: Christmas Day Service**

We will also have a “simple” Christmas Day Service on Sunday at 10:00 AM. to make sure that our doors are open for any visitors, travelers or any of you who wish to begin Christmas morning with a time of meditation and prayer in our sanctuary. There will be light hospitality following worship.

### **S7 – Karen: Food Pantry**

We continue our “Purple Bag Food Drive” for the Greater Sayville Food Pantry through December. Thank you for your support of this annual giving time for those who rely on others for meals and support. And, thank you to the Greater Sayville Food Pantry for your amazing ministry!

### **S8 – Karen: New member Sunday**

We are planning our New Member Sunday for January 22, 2023. Please speak to Ray if you are ready to become a member. We welcome you and look forward to doing so with thanks and appreciation on Sunday, January 22, 2023.

Are there any other announcements

## **S9 – Karen: Invite Randolph to Lead Us in A Breathing Moment**

**(If for some reason Randolph is not with us, please proceed with what follows)**

**Now, please take a moment to settle with a deep, slow breath.**

**Hold for a few seconds...**

**Release.**

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**Breathe in again, breathing the presence of Hope, Joy, Peace, Love that is here**

**Now...**

**Breathing out the important, yet distracting moments of our lives that we bring with us...at least for a while.**

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**Breathe...**

**As the bell is rung and we move more deeply into this time of worship together**

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## Ringling of the Bell

### **S10 Sean – Prelude**

**Prelude** "Christmas Time Is Here"  
Words by Lee Mendelson, Music by Vince  
Guaraldi

### **S11 Karen – Lighting of the Candles**

#### **Call to Worship & Lighting of the Candle**

*We have begun each week during Advent by lighting a candle on the Advent Wreath. Today, we begin by lighting the candles for Hope, Peace, Joy and the fourth candle, the candle for Love. Such love that reflects above all God's love for us and all of creation.*

*In a world of innate goodness that sometimes seems more a world of empires and despots – we light this candle to proclaim that love and its boundless compassion is more powerful than anything that might try to extinguish it.*

*The angel Gabriel reassured Mary that "nothing will be impossible with God."  
The power of love is the power of this truth.*

*So, as we light the candle of Love, we remember that God so loves this world that God has placed Jesus in our midst. Yes. Emmanuel, "God is with us."*

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

**S12-14 Sean – One Candle is Lit**

**One Candle is Lit (Four 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.**

**Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.**

**Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
Where wicked is banished and faith takes the day,  
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.**

*Karen: Please remain standing or be seated, if you wish,  
and join in praying our Unison Prayer*

**S15-18      Karen – Unison Prayer**

**Gracious God,**

**We come to you today to ask for your love to fill our hearts and guide our actions. Help us to love ourselves and others with kindness, compassion, and empathy. May we always seek to understand one another and work towards building strong and healthy relationships rooted in God’s love for us.**

**Grant us the courage to forgive those who have hurt us and to seek reconciliation in our interactions with others, as you call us to do.**

**May we always strive to be instruments of your hope, peace, joy and love; bringing these powerful gifts to others in all the ways we can.**

**We ask, too, for your blessings on our loved ones, that they, too, may feel your presence in their lives. May we always be grateful for the love that surrounds us, as we strive to follow your call.**

**Amen.**

***Karen:      Please be seated and join us in singing***



**S19-22 Sean – Awake!...**

**Opening Hymn**

**“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

New Century Hymnal #107, vs. 1,2,4

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,  
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

**Karen: Please remain seated**

## **S23-27**      **Karen Gospel Reading**

### **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1:15-25

This is how the birth of Jesus came about.

When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly.

This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the Angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus — 'Salvation' — because he will save the people from their sins."

All this happened to fulfill what God had said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child  
and give birth,  
and the child will be named  
Immanuel"

—a name that means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have relations with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

**S28+**      **Ray**

**Homily**      *"It's Time"*

**S31 Sean/Chancel Choir**

**The Chancel Choir**

"Overcome by the Power of Love"  
by James Ahrend

**S32-33 Karen**

Please remain seated

**Joys and Concerns**

Please respond, **"God, hear our prayers."**

**The Prayer of Jesus – "The Lord's Prayer"**

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.

**Karen Please rise and join us in singing and Passing the Peace of Christ**

**S34-36**

**Sean**

**Hymn**

**“Little Bethlehem of Judah”**

New Century Hymnal #113

**Little Bethlehem of Judah, what good news you bear!  
Out of you will come the Ancient One as heir.**

**Though your people suffer trouble, waiting for the child,  
Soon all strife and hatred shall be reconciled.**

**Long awaited comes the Shepherd who will rule the earth;  
God made low has come to serve in human birth.**

**S37**

**Karen**

**Karen Please remain standing...**

### **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.

**Karen Please be seated**

**S38 Sean/Chancel Choir**

**The Chancel Choir** "Mary, Did You Know?"  
by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene Arranged by Jack Schrader

**S39 Ray**

*Ray Please remain seated*

**Benediction**

*Ray Please rise and join us in singing...*

**S40 Sean**

**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."

Ray *Please be seated*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**S41**      **Travelin' On**

**S42**      **Ray**

**Postlude**

"O Tannenbaum" Traditional  
Arranged by Vince Guaraldi

**S43-44**      **Close**





### ***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 – Karen Maust

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](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

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