



Baptism of Jesus
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
January 8, 2023

Welcome

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

Please stand if you wish and join in this morning's Call to Worship

Call to Worship

We come to pray:
un-cling
and un-clench from [that]
which needs to be released.

Assent to God...
splash in our baptism,
tumble freely into the light;
wet and sparkly; Holy Sacred Presence.

Brightly-be...
Still. Now.

Please remain standing, if you wish and join in singing "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" #325 New Century Hymnal

Hymn

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"
New Century Hymnal #325

Please be seated and join in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

Unison Prayer

Breathe.

God is here.

Between, around, above – in...all.

Breathe.

Respond to God. Ascend.

Beings light. Be.

Wet and sparkly.

God is here.

Breathe.

Please rise if you wish and join in this morning's Passing of the Peace

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 remain standing, if you wish and join in singing "Blesses be the Tie That Binds" in your New Century Hymnal #393

Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

New Century Hymnal #393

Please be seated

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-3

“Arise, shine, for your light has come! the glory of YHWH is rising upon you! Though darkness still covers the earth and dense clouds enshroud the peoples, upon you YHWH now dawns, and God’s glory will be seen among you! The nations will come to your light and the leaders to your bright dawn!

“Lift up your eyes and look around: they’re all gathering and coming to you—your kin journey from afar, escorted in safety; you’ll see them and beam with joy, your heart will swell with pride. The riches of the sea will flow to you, and the wealth of the nations will come to you—camel caravans will cover your roads, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of YHWH.”

Please remain seated

The Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus’ birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Homily "Follow That Star" Rev. Jeanne Baum

Please remain seated

The Chancel Choir

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.

Please stand if you wish and join in singing “Where Charity and Love Prevail” in your New Century Hymnal #396

Hymn “Where Charity and Love Prevail”
 New Century Hymnal #396

Please be 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

Ring of the Bell

Postlude



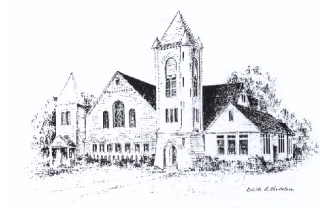
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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!

Rev. Jeanne Baum

"Jeanne is Pastor Emerita after eighteen years of service at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven Hamlet. She grew up in a Congregational church in the small town of Halifax, Massachusetts which is now a UCC church. Old South Haven shares the affirmation of "open and affirming" as a "More Light Church" (PCUSA) since the mid-eighties. Prior to ordination and graduation from Union Theological Seminary, Jeanne taught pre-school and then worked as a HUD certified counselor dealing with issues of racial discrimination and homelessness. She is mom to two adult children and three stepchildren, and was recently widowed. Her husband Bob Baum, although not an ordained pastor, preached at many churches on the topic of stewardship."



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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"