



*Remembering The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
January 15, 2023*

**Welcome**

**Ring of the Bell**

**Prelude**            "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes"

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

**Call to Worship** (With thanks to Mary Oliver)

"Be still and know that I am God," the psalmist writes.

Enter not as in a contest to see who can be more still and silent, but as this place - a doorway - into thanks and the quiet from which another voice may speak.

Entering the depth of God's awesome presence, knowing the love beyond measure that is ours and ours to share.

Amen.

*Please remain standing, if you wish and join in singing "Blessed Are You" #77 in your Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal*

**Hymn**

**"Blessed Are You"**

Sing! Prayer and Praise #77

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

### **Unison Prayer**

Gracious God, you have made us people of hope. You have filled us with an energy for justice and visions of dreams for a world in which – one day – all will embrace your love and know the joy of caring for each other.

We are your people. Help us, please, to reach out to all – reflecting you – yes, you. Guide us, as you will. And may we, always, say “Yes” in your name.

*Silence*

### **Assurance of God's Love**

We are not made to do this work of Justice and Love alone or perfectly. When we miss the mark, when we fall short - we know you are there, moving us ever forward, preparing us for the next step – with the assurance of your pardoning love, and so it is today. Amen.

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 “Come Sweet Justice” in your Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #137

**Hymn**

**“Come Sweet Justice”**

Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #137

Please be seated

**First Reading**     Isaiah 40:1-5

“Console my people, give them comfort,” speaks your God.

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem’s heart, and tell it  
that its time of service is ended,  
that its iniquity is atoned for,  
that it has received from YHWH’s hand  
double punishment for all its sins.”

A voice cries out,  
“Clear a path through the wilderness for Yhwh!  
Make a straight road through the desert for our God!  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low;  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges become a valley!  
Then the glory of YHWH will be revealed  
and all humankind will see it.

The mouth of YHWH has spoken!

Please remain seated

**The Chancel Choir**

“Dealing with Difference” James Ahrend

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 3:1-6; 13-17

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.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

**Homily**

"Prepare the Way"

Rev. Jeanne Baum

Please remain seated

**The Chancel Choir**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

**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 “They Asked, Who’s My Neighbor” in your New Century Hymnal #541

**Hymn**

“They Asked, “Who’s My Neighbor” vs. 1, 4  
New Century Hymnal #541

Please be seated.

**Benediction**

Please rise and join us in singing our church covenant

## **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**                    "Hymn to Freedom"



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

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