



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

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

S1 **Welcome**

S2 **Jenna** **Announcements:**

Good morning everyone and welcome to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ on this “Baptism of Jesus” Sunday!

My name is Jenna Murphy, and I am pleased to serve as liturgist for this morning’s service and am happy to welcome, you whether here in person or watching us from home. And, a special good morning to Nancy Swezey, Robert Pierce and Martha Moler and others watching us from home! Welcome all!

We have a few announcements, next Sunday following worship there will be a brief meeting for anyone interested in becoming a member of Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ – whether as a new member, a renewing member or transferring your membership. Our new membership Sunday will be on January 29th and we are excited about welcoming those who will be joining us. If you are unable to attend next week, please reach out to Ray and he will bring you up-to-date.

And, on February 5th, we will welcome Matthew Lypenm his family and guests and all of you to his Confirmation as part of our worship. Please be sure to join us for this wonderful celebration of this time and commitment for Matthew on his spiritual journey.

And, to keep the excitement rolling! On February 12th we will be reprising our "Souper Bowl Sunday" to benefit Sharing a Meal. Roberta, would you like to say a few words?

Thank you!

Are there any other announcements?

OK, so before we go... we invite you to take any of the pointesettias on our chancel with you to give them a good home and we hope you will join us for hospitality in our Vestry immediately following worship. And please know you are invited to our informal talkback in the sanctuary at 11:30 AM.

And, now, let us enter into this time together with a long deep breath to center ourselves -- and a breath exhaled to leave the "busy-ness" aside as best we can... pausing as the bell is rung and this morning's service continues...

Ringing of the Bell

Usher

S3 Prelude Sean

"A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes"
by Mack David, Al Hoffman, and Jerry Livingston

S4 Jenna_ Please stand if you wish and join in this morning's Call to Worship

S5 Jenna **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.

S6-8 Sean 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

S9 Jenna Please be seated and join in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

S10 Jenna **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”

Words and Music by 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"

Words by James Weldon Johnson

Music by John Rosamond Johnson

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**

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."



Sean Cameron, Music Director

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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"