



*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
February 5, 2023*

Communion and Confirmation Sunday

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude "My Funny Valentine" from Babes in Arms
Words by Lorenz Hart, Music by Richard Rodgers
James Cesare, trumpet soloist

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

Call to Worship from "Write Some New Agenda" by Joseph H. Gilmore

O [You God] in whom nations are united...
beneath edgy borders,
treaties which define friends and enemies,
the marching songs of a thousand armies
and languages of wondrous difference,
each with a word for love,
each with a word for peace.

**Write some new agenda for a world
healed in our hearts this day.
For even as we draw lines of wire and blood
across the face of the earth;
as we write treaties,
each more comprehensive than the last;
while trumpets and drums excite the worst in us;
and while we argue with each other
in the foreign tongues of belligerence, ownership and power –
the universe itself speaks the vocabulary of *shalom*.**

The Chancel Choir "Let There Be Peace On Earth"
by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
Arranged by Hawley Ades

A Time of Confirmation #351

Hymn **“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”**
New Century Hymnal #351 Verse 1

**I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where trouble dwells.**

Unison Prayer *from “Write Some New Agenda” by Joseph H. Gilmore*

**The wind blows across every border,
The sun warms every upturned face,
the stars beguile every opened eye.**

**The earth opens its arms to all of its children,
providing a feeding place, a growing place,
a loving place, and at last a resting place.**

**O You ancient Holy One: In thy wisdom, the universe unfolds
in the direction of wholeness and truth and beauty.
Make this fragile planet and us, thy wayward children
a part of that journey, we pray.**

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.

Passing of Christ's Peace

Please be seated

First Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

As for myself – friends and kin – when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God’s testimony with any particular eloquence or wisdom. No, I determined that while I was with you I would know nothing but Jesus Christ—Christ crucified. When I came among you, it was in weakness and fear, and with much trepidation. My message and my preaching did not rest on philosophical arguments, but on the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Still, there is a certain wisdom which we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are headed for destruction. No, what we utter is God’s wisdom: a mysterious, hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would never have crucified the Sovereign of Glory. Of this wisdom it is written,

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as dawned on anyone
what God has prepared
for those who love God.”

Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Holy Spirit. She searches out all things, even the deep things of God. After all, no one knows one’s thoughts except one’s own inner spirit, by the same token, no one knows God’s thoughts except God’s Spirit. We haven’t received the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so that we can understand what God has freely given us.

Please remain seated

Homily

Please remain seated

The Chancel Choir "Let Us Break Bread Together" American Folk Melody
Arranged by Craig Courtney

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.

Communion

Please stand if you wish and join in singing our closing hymn: "God, When I Came into This Life" #354 in our New Century Hymnal.

Closing Hymn

"God, When I Came into This Life"
New Century Hymnal #354

Benediction

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

"Child Of God"

Words and Music by James Ahrend



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.

Sean Cameron, Music Director

James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Liturgist – Michael Jayne

Usher – Lorraine Martin

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,
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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"