



LEADERS BULLETIN

*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
February 12, 2023*

S1 On Screen

Click

We begin today with prayers for all those who have lost family, friends, neighbors, communities – everything they knew – in the devastating earthquakes that struck Turkey, Syria and surrounding areas. As the death toll now exceeds 25,000 people, the struggle to survive the winter conditions with sparse shelter and food supplies is unimaginable.

With the world, we pray for all those reeling from this natural disaster and for ongoing recovery efforts on the long road ahead for our far-away neighbors.

Please check eChimes for ways to support the effort in Turkey and Syria on Tuesday, or check online for other ways to help.

Click

Please join me now in a moment of silence quietly offering a prayer of your own. (Please slow count to 30 before continuing.)

S2 Welcome Jeanne

And so, friends, as we remember the struggle of the world, we are so grateful to be together this morning as we welcome you to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ: a place where you are welcome long before you arrive. Thank you for joining us whether in person or online. My name is Jeanne Newcombe and I have the privilege of serving today as your liturgist.

Click – souper Bowl Sunday

We have just a few announcements. Thank you for your patience.

First, we invite you all to join us after worship for our Souper Bowl Sunday to help raise funds in support of Sharing A Meal, which operates its program from our Fellowship Hall four days a week. We are very fortunate to have Mike Dileo, VP of Sharing a Meal who will speak to us about the program during following our Unison Prayer. Thank you Mike for joining us, we appreciate all you do and look forward to hearing from you.

Click – Chair Yoga

A reminder that Chair Yoga with Yoga Master Randolf returns on Saturday Feb 18th. It's a great group and all are welcome.

Click – Bible Jam

Our Bible Jam gatherings continue this week on Wednesday at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM in person and online. Please join us! You are more than welcome! By the way, there are no classes on Ash Wednesday.

Souper Bowl Sunday

And once more, a huge shout out to Roberta and everyone who has helped with planning, organizing and pulling together our always fabulous Souper Bowl Sunday – ther first in three years because of the pandemic! Would Roberta, Sue, Kathi and all who have helped plan and cook and everything to make this happen – please stand! Please! Thank you! [Applause]

And just one more announcement.

Click – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is one week from this coming Wednesday, February 22nd. We will have a brief service and disposition of ashes here in the sanctuary at 7PM – followed by a light meal and refreshments. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and we hope you will join us.

So, thank you for your prayers and patience as we share these comments about our world and shared congregational life. You can stay up-to-date with events, schedule changes and news by following up on our weekly

Click – eCHimes

eCHimes Newsletter published on Tuesdays each week. For more information, visit our website or go to echimes.org. And sign up, please!

S3 Blank Slide for Breathing...

Now, take a moment to center yourself using your breath.

Sit comfortably...

- Inhale deeply...with a count of 4
- Hold it... for a count of 5
- Exhale slowly...for a count of 4
- Hold it for a count of 5

Once more:

- Inhale deeply...with a count of 4
- Hold it... for a count of 5

- Now, Exhale the distractions of the world around us, as best you can...listening for the ringing of the bell, followed by this morning's prelude and the continuation of today's worship together...

Ring of the Bell

S4 Prelude - Sean

Prelude

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

S5 Call to Worship – Jeanne

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

S6 Jean: First I will read the Meditation, followed by a short pause, after which I will invite you to pray with me:

Meditation

"Breaking the deep sleep that filled my head,
A heavy clap of thunder startled me up...
As though by force; with rested eyes I stood
Peering to find where I was –

[Pause – silently count to eight]

S7 Jean: Now please join me in praying:

**God of hope, reconciliation and promise...
God who makes all things new...
Bring us new visions and a "freed" open heart.
Send the selfish chill away;
Warm us with your compassion
And your quiet unmistakable voice to love.
Really. Love. Even when it's hard to do.**

Please remain standing and join us in singing Verses 1 and 5 of our Opening Hymn, "You Are" on page 56 in your Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal.

S8-16 Hymn - Sean

Hymn "You Are!" Sing! Prayer and Praise #56

S17 Jeanne

Please be seated and join with me in praying today's Unison Prayer

S18 – 20

Unison Prayer

We pray for change. Real change. We pray not to be discouraged because there remains much to do. We give thanks for the progress we have made and pray to relentlessly build on what has been done. Help us not be distracted by trying to end or finish what will take more time than we have – but to rely more on our partnership with you that fills the day, each day, Gracious God. Stir us to live in openness to your teachings, Wonderful Counselor. Inspire us to embody gratitude for you, Eternal Spirit. Take our hand – and guide us on the way, please.

S21 Jeanne

Assurance of God's Love

Friends, We travel together – whether near or far, riding the Spirit that fills us and spills from us as gracious as God's Love can be. As gracious as God's love can be!

S22 Ray introduces Mike

Minutes for Mission Sharing a Meal

S23 Sean – The Chancel Choir, once Mike is seated.

The Chancel Choir

"God Be In My Head" by John Rutter

S24 Jeanne – Peace of Christ

Please stand now and join us as we pass the Peace of Christ

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

S25 Jeanne/Ray – Joys and Concerns

Friends, this is a time to share with one another the joys and concerns you bring with you today. Please wait for the microphone to come to you...

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.

Jeanne

Please remain seated and join us in "Spirit of the Living God" as we prepare for this morning's readings.

S26 Sean – Hymn

"Spirit of the Living God" New Century Hymnal #283

S27 Jeanne

First Reading Sirach 15:15-20 (Adapted)

You are free to keep the Commandments;
It is in your power to be faithful.
YHWH has placed fire and water before us all;
Each must choose one.
Choose life and God.
For God's wisdom is immense;
It is all-powerful and all-seeing;
God sees everything in all creation;
Nothing escapes God.
None is given the strength to tell lies
And not be known.

S28 Sean – The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir

"Feed My Lambs"
Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth
Arranged by Tom Fettke

Jeanne (Wait for choir to be seated before reading)

S29 Jeanne

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:33-37 (Adapted)

“Again, you have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘Don’t break your vow; fulfill all oaths made to our God.’ But I tell you not to swear oaths at all. Don’t swear by heaven, for it is God’s throne; don’t swear by the earth, for it is God’s footstool. Don’t swear by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. And don’t swear by your own head, for you can’t make a single hair white or black. Say ‘Yes’ when you mean ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ when you mean ‘No.’ Anything beyond that is from the shortcomings of the human condition.”

Please remain seated.

S30 Ray

Provocation

I will cue in the beginning.

- Click

- Click

S31 Next Slide

S32 - 35 Ray Please stand if you are able for our closing hymn:

Closing Hymn "Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor"
New Century Hymnal #590

S36 Ray Please be seated slide

S37 Ray Benediction

S38-39 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."

Please be seated.

Ringing of the Bell

S40 Sean Postlude "Is This the World We Created?"
by Freddie Mercury and Brian May

Pace Closing Slides: 41, 42, 43

Thank you all!

Sean Cameron, Music Director
Liturgist – Jean Newcombe
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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"