



*Transfiguration Sunday*  
*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*  
*February 19, 2023*

*from: Tears We Cannot Stop*

*Beloved, your white innocence is a burden to you, a burden to the nation a burden to our progress. It is time to let it go, to let it die in place of the black bodies that it wills into nonbeing. In its place should rise a curiosity, but even more, a genuine desire to know and understand just what it means to be black in America.*

*-Michael Eric Dyson, Tears We Cannot Stop, p. 123*

## **S1 Karen Welcome**

Good morning everyone and welcome to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ, where we like to say, “You are welcome before you arrive!” My name is Karen Maust and it is my privilege to serve today as liturgist and thank you for being with us in person or online. It is good to be together.

## **S2 Karen Earthquake**

Once again, 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 45,000 people, the struggle to survive the winter conditions with sparse shelter and food supplies is unimaginable.

In the midst of this, we give thanks for the survivors, few as they have been, that incredibly, miraculously continued to be found this week. They, with the others who survived will bring hope to those determined to continue and rebuild in their lives – in spite of the enormous scars they now carry. A determination, surely, for many rooted in the faith they hold.

So, with the world, we pray for all those reeling from this natural disaster and encourage all to do what they can in support of the efforts.

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

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

**Click**

## **S2 Continue Karen**

And so, friends, we have just a few announcements. Thank you for your patience.

### **Click – Sharing a Meal**

Thank you to everyone who made last week's "Souper Bowl Sunday's Return" a huge success. Ready for this? We raised \$1,000 for Sharing a Meal! Thank you for your generosity in supporting this shared ministry of our congregation with Sharing a Meal.

### **Click – Chair Yoga**

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

### **Click – Bible Jam**

Our Bible Jam classes will return on March 1. We are not meeting this week because of Ash Wednesday service.

### **Click – Bible Jam**

As I mentioned our Ash Wednesday service will be this Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Vestry and Online, during which time ashes will be dispensed for those present who wish to participate. All are welcome for meditation, ashes or both. This is a time designed for whatever you think you may need as we begin our Lenten reflections together.

### **Click – Ash Wednesday**

And, following the service, we will offer light refreshments in the Vestry and hope you will be able to join us. You are more than welcome!

**Click – High Point Choral**

Friends, in 2019 while Shannon Conrad was a student at High Point University in North Carolina and singing in their magnificent choir, we planned for a special event to have the choir join us here for an evening of stellar performance by these talented young people and their Music Director Marc Foster. A broken down bus on the New England Thruway somewhere along the route forced a cancelation of the performance. Thankfully, everyone was safe and they were able to continue on the next day.

We then tried again and for 2020 – and we all know what happened starting then and for the next two years. Well! We are excited to share with you that:

**Click – High Point Choral Picture**

The High Point Chorale will be joining us for a community performance in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 P.M. It is free. Open to the public. And we hope you and your family and friends will join us.

And! On Sunday, the High Point Choir will perform during worship, including a performance – we hope – blending our two choirs together. Please be sure to spread the news! We are so looking forward to our time together!

Hopefully, “third time’s the charm!”

**Click – High Point Choral Picture**

**Click – eChimes**

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

Are there any other announcements?

And now, I invite Randolph Pearson to come up and lead us into worship with a time of “Centering Breath”

**S4 Lotus Slide for Breathing Randolph**

[Randolf, when you are ready, would you invite the bell to be rung?]

**Usher**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**S5 Prelude Sean**

**Prelude** “Prelude for Organ No. 48” by C. H. Rinck

**S6-7 Call to Worship Karen**

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

## Call to Worship

In this place of gratitude,  
respect for others;  
with willingness to struggle for justice,  
the courage to seek clarity,  
and a wide-openness to God, as we know God—  
we come first with love and welcome—  
for kin and stranger.  
For one and all.  
No exceptions.

Please be seated

### **S8 The Chancel Choir / Sean**

**The Chancel Choir** "Lest We Forget"  
by Mary Kay Beall and Charles Yannerella

**Choir remains standing**

### **S9 Karen invites the congregation to rise as the choir enters the pews as follows**

Please rise and remain standing through the Passing of Christ's Peace

### **S10-11 Unison Prayer – Karen:**

Please join me in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

## **Unison Prayer**

(A Variation of Psalm 67 from "O God, Show Mercy to Us")

**God with us always and in this hour,  
shower kindness upon us; bless us with your grace, please.  
Help us be the reflection of your love and mercy and justice  
for all peoples, for every heart in every land –  
beginning here, in this hour, with ours.**

## **S12 Unison Prayer – Karen**

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

Friends, This is the assurance of God's Love: "Look toward one another and say in the ways you will, 'You are Loved.'" And join now in the Passing of Christ's Peace

## **S13 Passing of Christ's Peace – Karen**

### **Passing of Christ's Peace**

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **S14-15 Hymn: Sean**

Please be seated and join us in singing “Ferry Our Prayers” in you Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #95

**Hymn**      “Ferry Our Prayers”      Sing! Prayer and Praise #105

**S16 Hymn: Sean**

This is a time for us to share our joys and concerns. Please wait for the microphone and respond to the petitions with “God, Hear Our Prayers”

**Joys and Concerns**

Please respond, “**God, hear our prayers.**”

**S17 Karen**

**The Prayer of Jesus – “The Lord’s Prayer”**

(Friends, You are invited to pray this prayer in the ways that are closest to your heart.)

**Creator God who is in heaven; Hallowed be your name.**

**Your kindom 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 kindom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CLICK for seating and hymn introduction.**

**S17 Karen**



Please remain seated and join us in singing “Spirit of the Living God”  
in the New Centruy Hymnal #283

**S18 Hymn Sean**

**Hymn** “Spirit of the Living God” New Century Hymnal #283

**S18-22 First Reading Karen**

**First Reading** 2 Peter 1:16-21 (Inclusive Bible)

We did not cleverly devise fables when we taught you of the power and coming of our Savior Jesus Christ; we ourselves saw the majesty of our Savior. For Jesus was honored and glorified by our Creator God when the voice of the Majestic Glory spoke out, “This is my Own, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased.” We heard this ourselves—this voice from heaven—when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. Moreover, we have the prophetic word, which is even more certain. Depend on it for your own good as a light shining in the dark, until first light breaks and the morning star rises in your hearts. At the same time, you need to know that no prophecy of scripture ever occurred by one’s own interpretation. Prophecy never comes through an act of human will, but comes as people have spoken for God under the power of the Holy Spirit.

**S23 Hymn Karen**

Please stand if you wish and join us in singing “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” in the New Century Hymnal #182

**S24-26 Hymn Sean**

**Hymn**      “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”  
New Century Hymnal #182

**CLICK at the END of HYMN**

**S27-30      Gospel Reading      Karen**

Please be seated

**Gospel Reading**      Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them. And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured—his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!”

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to him!”

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead.”

**S31-33      Homily      Ray      Provocation**

Please remain seated

**S34 The Chancel Choir/Sean The Chancel Choir**

"The Peace of God" Adapted from Philippians 4:7-8

**S35 Benediction Ray Benediction**

**S36 Church Covenant 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."

**S37 Please be Seated**

Ringing of the Bell

**S38 Please be Seated Postlude**

Postlude "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash

**Closing Slides 39, 40, 41**



***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, we 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

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Usher – Lorraine Martin

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,  
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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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"

**2023 Lenten & Easter Schedule**

**V = Vestry S = Sanctuary O = Online**

Wed., February 22 Ash Wednesday

Service at 7PM

S,O

	Light Repaste Follows		V
	No Bible Jam; Returns Wednesday, March 1		
Sat., Feb. 25	Chair Yoga with Randolph	11 AM	V
Sun., Feb. 26	First Sunday in Lent		S,O
Wed., March 1	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat., March 4	Chair Yoga with Randolph	11 AM	V
Sat., March 4	High Point University Chorus	7:30 PM	S,O(Free)
Sun., March 5	Second Sunday in Lent		S,O
Wed., March 8	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat., March 11	Combined Boards Meeting	10 AM	V,O
Sun., March 12	Third Sunday in Lent		S,O
Wed., March 15	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat., March 18	Chair Yoga with Randolph	11 AM.	V
Sun., March 19	Fourth Sunday in Lent		S,O
Wed., March 22	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat., March 25	Chair Yoga with Randolph	11 AM.	V
Sun., March 26	Fifth Sunday in Lent		S,O
Wed., March 29	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat. April 1	Chair Yoga with Randolph	11 AM.	V
Sun., April 2	Palm Sunday		S,O
Wed., April 5	No Bible Jam; Returns on April 12		
Thu., April 6	Maundy Thursday Service	7 PM	S,O
Fri., April 7	Good Friday – Sanctuary Open	12-3	S,O

### Easter Sunday

Sun., April 9	Easter Sunrise Service on The Great South Bay		
	-Boarding	5:40 AM	Departure 5:50 AM
	Sunrise	6:26 AM	Return to Dock by 7 AM
	Park at Sayville Ferry, 41 River Road		
	-Polish Breakfast	7:15 AM	Fellowship Hall
Sun., April 9	Easter Sunday Service at	10 AM	S,O