



Third Sunday of Lent
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
March 12, 2023

Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.

Mary Oliver, from "Sometimes"

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Prelude for Organ, No. 93*

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

Call to Worship

(From Mary Oliver: *Where does the temple begin, where does it end?*)

There are things you can't reach. But
you can reach out to them, and all day long.
The wind, the bird flying away. The idea of God.
And it can keep you as busy as anything else, and happier.
Come, let us "reach out" to what we can and cannot reach...
Together in prayer and praise and song...

Please remain standing and join us in our opening hymn:

Hymn *There's a Wideness to God's Mercy* New Century Hymnal #23

Please be seated

Unison Prayer

Liturgist:

Friends, in this season of Lent, we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Jesus – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, and to hold them up to the example of Jesus – and to find a way to address what troubles us, directly, as we may. In this time of silence and prayer together, let us look at our lives. And so, we pray first in silence.

(Silent Prayer for One Minute)

Please join together in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

In Unison

by Joseph H. Gilmore

O Thou in whom the 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 into 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 with the vocabulary of *shalom*.

The wind blows *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 Thou ancient Holy One:
in thy wisdom, the universe unfolds
in the directions of wholeness and truth and beauty.
Make this fragile planet and us,
thy wayward children,
a part of that journey, we pray.

Anthem *Sing to God* Words and Music by James Ahrend

Joys and Concerns

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

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

(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.**

Please rise

Passing of Christ’s Peace

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!
And also with you.

Please extend a sign of peace to one another.

Please join us in singing:

Hymn *Spirit of the Living God* New Centruy Hymnal #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

Please be seated

Gospel Reading*John**Chapter 4:1-15*

^{4:1} When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was attracting and baptizing more disciples than John² —though it was really not Jesus baptizing, but his disciples—³ he left Judea and returned to Galilee. ⁴ This meant that he had to pass through Samaria.

⁵ He stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph,⁶ and Jacob's Well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

⁹ The Samaritan woman replied, "You're a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?"—since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "If you please," she challenged Jesus, "you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this 'living water'?" ¹² Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I won't grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water."

Homily

Hymn *O Bread of Life* New Century Hymnal #333

Holy Communion *The Table is Set for All*

“The Bread of Life” and “The Cup of Blessing”
(The fruit of the vine is grape juice and there is also
gluten free bread on the table, if you prefer.)

Anthem *A Prayer of Saint Patrick* Music by John Rutter

Please remain seated

Benediction

Please rise

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

Postlude *What I Did For Love*
Words by Edward Kleban, Music by Marvin Hamlisch



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.

Thank you!

The Chancel Choir

James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Sue Lanchantin

Ushers – Hilda Baeza and Michael Hoff

Hospitality – Hilda Baeza

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

"Where you are welcome long before you arrive!"

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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 (Update)

V = Vestry S = Sanctuary O = Online

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 PM	S,O

Easter Sunday

Sun., April 9	Easter Sunrise Service on The Great South Bay	
Board: 5:40 AM	Departure: 5:50 AM	Sunrise: 6:26 AM
Return :7 AM	Park at Sayville Ferry, 41 River Road	
Polish Breakfast	7:15 AM	Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday in Our Vestry at 10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt to Follow on the Front Lawn!