



*Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
March 19, 2023*

“Never underestimate the power of being seen—
it’s exhausting to keep working against yourself
when someone truly sees and loves you.”

~Brené Brown

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude “Almeria” by Isaac Albeniz

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

Call to Worship from Psalm 23, *Psalms for Praying*, Nan C. Merrill

Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow and
of death,
I am not afraid:
For You are ever with me;
your rod and staff
they guide me,
they give me strength
and comfort.

Come, loved ones and friends, all—protected,
comforted and unafraid,
let us worship together.

Please remain standing and join us in our opening hymn:

Hymn “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns”
New Century Hymnal #212

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

O that today, you will listen to Jesus' voice:
Let your sorrows be lifted into God's care,
Your joys grateful expressions of God's presence,
And your soul, your soul in the palm of your hands:
For you and all, for you and all.

Anthem "Child of 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 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 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 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”
New Centruy Hymnal #292 Verses 1, 3

(1) Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may lov the way you love and do what you would do.

(3) Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Please be seated.

Gospel Reading *John* *Chapter 9:1-41*

^{9:1} As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. ² The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”

³ “Neither,” answered Jesus,

“It wasn’t because of anyone’s sin—
not this person’s, nor the parents’.

Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth
in this person.

⁴ We must do the deeds of the One who sent me
while it is still day—

for night is coming,
when no one can work.

While I am in the world,
I am the light of the world.”

⁶ With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one's eyes with the mud. ⁷ Then Jesus said, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"—"Siloam" means "sent." So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

⁸ Neighbors and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said yes; others said no—the one who had been healed simply looked like the beggar.

But the individual in question said, "No—it was me." ¹⁰

The people then asked, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹ The answer came, "The one they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see."

¹² "Where is Jesus?" they asked. The person replied, "I have no idea."

¹³ They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one's eyes. ¹⁵ The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, "Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see."

¹⁶ This prompted some Pharisees to say, "This Jesus cannot be from God, because he doesn't keep the Sabbath." Others argued, "But how could a sinner perform signs like these?" They were sharply divided.

¹⁷ Then they addressed the blind person again: "Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus?"

"He's a prophet," came the reply. ¹⁸ The Temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents.

¹⁹ “Is this your child?” they asked, “and if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see?”

²⁰ The parents answered, “We know this is our child, blind from birth.

²¹ But how our child can see now, or who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But don’t ask us—our child is old enough to speak without us!”

²² The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

²³ That was why they said, “Our child is of age and should be asked directly.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, “Give God the glory instead; we know that this Jesus is a sinner.”

²⁵ “I don’t know whether he is a sinner or not,” the individual answered. “All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.”

²⁶ They persisted, “Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ “I already told you, but you won’t listen to me,” came the answer. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Don’t tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!”

²⁸ They retorted scornfully, “You’re the one who is Jesus’ disciple. We’re disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.”

³⁰ The other retorted: “Well, this is news! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes! ³¹ We know that God doesn’t hear sinners, but that if people are devout and obey God’s will, God listens to them. ³² It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. ³³ If this one were not from God, he could never have done such a thing!”

³⁴ “What!” they exclaimed. “You’re steeped in sin from birth, and you’re giving us lectures?” With that they threw the person out.

³⁵ When Jesus heard of the expulsion, he sought out the healed one and asked, “Do you believe in the Chosen One?”

³⁶ The other answered, “Who is this One, that I may believe?”

³⁷ “You’re looking at him,” Jesus replied. “The Chosen One is speaking to you now.”

³⁸ The healed one said, “Yes, I believe,” and worshiped Jesus.

³⁹ And Jesus said, “I came into this world to execute justice—to make the sightless see and the seeing blind.”

⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard this and said, “You’re not calling us blind, are you?”

⁴¹ To which Jesus replied, “If you were blind, there would be no sin in that. But since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Homily

Hymn

“O Bread of Life”

New Century Hymnal #333 Verse 3, Twice

Stand in our midst, eyes and hearts opening;
Your mystic self to us revealing;
Unite us in life everlasting, Immanuel, blessing unending.

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

"Beautiful Savior"

by David Allen

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

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

“They Call The Wind Maria” from *Paint Your Wagon*
by Lerner and Loewe

2023 Lenten & Easter Schedule (Update)

V = Vestry S = Sanctuary O = Online

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!



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!

James Higgins, Guest Music Director

The Chancel Choir

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Michael Jayne

Usher – Michael Hoff

Hospitality – Thank you, All!

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

“Where you are welcome long before you arrive!”

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor ray@sayvilleucc.org 631-827-8611 (Cell/Text)

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 Easter Plants

This Easter season I would like to place
flowers on the Chancel.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please Print Legibly

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

____ I would like to give my Easter plant to someone
unable to attend services at this time

____ I will pick my plant up after Easter Sunday

Please send (or bring) this form and your donation to:

Sayville Congregational Church
131 Middle Road
Sayville, NY 11782

All orders must be received by Monday, April 3rd.

Note: Quantity of Plants Ordered will be Determined by Donations