



*Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
March 26, 2023*

2023 Lenten & Easter Schedule (Update)
V = Vestry S = Sanctuary O = Online

Wed., March 29	Bible Jam	10 AM & 7 PM	S,O
Sat., April 1	Chair Yoga with Randolf	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 Worhsip in Our Vestry at 10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt to Follow on the Front Lawn!

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude “Prelude for Organ No. 85” by C.H. Rinck

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

Call to Worship Prompted by “Standing in Our Own Light”
By Joseph H. Gilmore

Most welcoming God:
hold thy laughter
yet a little while,
as we come to you in new ways...

as we learn even more of the
“Everywhere ways”
you are and can be found,
As we embrace your joy
in unexpected manners...
to navigate the unsettling and the sorrow.

Remind us of your richness and grace
in the neighborhoods that know no bounds;
and the self where we already are,
filled with your light – our own –
here to share and pray and worship together.

Please remain standing and join us in our opening hymn:

Hymn “O Day of God, Draw Near” New Century Hymnal #611

Please be seated

Unison Prayer Adapted from by “The Half We Need”
by Joseph H. Gilmore

Please join together in praying this morning’s Unison Prayer

Most surprising God:
who can ever know why,
(once upon a time),

Weary of darkling silence
you revealed yourself
in fire and wind?

At the farthest,
retreating edge of the universe,
the echo of your first word
can still be heard:
“Let there be!”

In the most ancient of ways,
come though again.
Come leaping upon us.
Call up the fire in us,

Dormant embers
in some far corner of the heart;

for brightness and heat
trail thee
now as ever,

and we *need* these
as surely as earth
needs the flaming sun
if there is to be
Morning.

Come blowing against us,
over us,
huge, hopeful wind,
untamable and sacred
spirit.

Come.

Anthem "Gratitude" 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.)

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 "Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God"
New Centruy Hymnal #287 Verses 1, 5

(1) Come teach us Spirit of our God, the language of your way.
the lessons that we need to live, the faith for every day,
the faith for every day.

(5) Delight our hearts to worship you, to learn compassion's code,
to live in context of your love, great teacher who is God!
Great teacher who is God!

Please be seated.

Gospel Reading *John Chapter* *11:1-53*

¹¹ ¹There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. ²Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. ³The sisters sent this message to Jesus: "Rabbi, the one you love is sick."

⁴When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God's glory, so that God's Only Begotten may be glorified because of it."

⁵Jesus loved these three very much. ⁶Yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. ⁷Finally he said to the disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

⁸ They protested, "Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you—and you want to go back there again?" ⁹ Jesus replied,

"Aren't there twelve hours of daylight?
Those who walk by day don't stumble,
because they see the world bathed in light;
¹⁰ those who go walking by night will stumble
because there is no light in them."

¹¹ After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, “Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him.”

¹² The disciples objected, “But Rabbi, if he’s only asleep, he’ll be fine.”

¹³ Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he was talking about actual sleep. ¹⁴ So he said very plainly, “Lazarus is dead! ¹⁵ For your sakes I am glad that I wasn’t there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas, “the Twin,” said to the rest, “Let’s go with Jesus, so that we can die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ many people had come out to console Martha and Mary about their brother.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners.

²¹ When she got to Jesus, Martha said, “If you had been here, my brother would never have died! ²² Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ “Your brother will rise again!” Jesus assured her. ²⁴ Martha replied, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus told her,

“I am the Resurrection,
and I am Life:
those who believe in me
will live, even if they die;
²⁶ and those who are alive and believe in me
will never die.

“Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes!” Martha replied. “I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God’s Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. “The Teacher is here, asking for you,” she whispered.

²⁹ As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus hadn’t gotten to the village yet. He was at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn. ³² When Mary got to Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “If you had been here, Lazarus never would have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions.

³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” Jesus asked.

“Come and see,” they said. ³⁵ And Jesus wept.

³⁶ The people in the crowd began to remark, “See how much he loved him!”

³⁷ Others said, “He made the blind person see; why couldn’t he have done something to prevent Lazarus’ death?”

³⁸ Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” Jesus directed.

Martha said, “Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench.”

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, “Didn’t I assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took the stone away. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Abba, thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!”

⁴³ Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

⁴⁴ And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, “Untie him and let him go free.”

⁴⁵ Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

⁴⁶ Some others, however, went to the Pharisees and reported what Jesus had done.

⁴⁷ As a result, the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we to do,” they said, “with this one who is performing all these miracles? ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everybody will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

⁴⁹ One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said, “You don’t seem to have grasped the situation at all; ⁵⁰ you fail to see that it is better for one person to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.” ⁵¹ He didn’t say this of his own accord; as high priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus was to die for the nation—

⁵² and not for the nation only, but to gather together into one body the scattered children of God.

⁵³ From that day they were determined to kill him. ⁵⁴ So Jesus no longer went about openly in Judea, but left the area for a town called Ephraim, in the region bordering on a desert, and stayed there with the disciples.

Homily

Hymn

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

New Century Hymnal #331

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 "Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord" Words and Music by Don Besig

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 "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*
Words and Music by Jonathan Larson



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

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Randolph Pearson

Usher – Michael Hoff

Hospitality – Hank and Karen Maust

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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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”