



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 2, 2023



Palm Sunday

from "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"
~ Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
The donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
the donkey stood and waited.

Unison Prayer

Please be seated and join us in reading this morning's Unison Prayer

"Say You, (for Palm Sunday)" by Joseph H. Gilmore

O you whose name we do
not, have never known:
on that day,
did he enter the spirit
of the parade?
Did he laugh at their gesture,
unlikely prophet on an
unlikely animal
shuffling toward
an unknown destiny?

Say you.

Or did he look neither right
nor left, flint-faced,
eyes fixed
on some undetermined
distance, ears closed to the
merriment
of the bystanders?

Say you.

Did his heart race,
sensing danger,
but not knowing from where?
Did he wish
he had never prayed
for the coming of God
in his life with power,
and to his people
with power, love and justice?
Say you.

Did he still own the words
he borrowed from Isaiah
for his first sermon...
"the Spirit of God
is upon me,"
or, as he rode,
was he rehearsing
his last prayer...
"My God, my God,
why?"

You say,
we beseech you.

He was a danger
and a delight
you know this,
and following in his way is,
ever,
more than we
bargained for.
He went up
in flames,
and there has been light ever
since.

Hosannah in the highest!
Blessed are those, who
like him
ride in to town
regardless.

Assurance of God's Love

God's love for Jesus and for those crying "Hoshana" – "Please help us" – is the same love of God for us today. God's walk with us, as God has always walked with God's creation, is an assurance of Presence and Steadfastness, on each path we take. It is relying on God for our directions in life, our joys and our struggle, even when the clouds gather, is what assures us that God is there: in the clouds, the shadows and the brightly shining sun. It is our trust that calls us to the God already there.

Anthem

"Draw Nigh, O Lord"

Words by Jeremy Taylor, Music by Erik Routley
James Cesare, trumpet soloist

Joys and Concerns

Please respond, **"God, hear our prayers."**

The Prayer of Jesus –

The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (Adapted)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Creator God of us all,
Loving God, in who is all about us:
The blessings of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come upon us.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and 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 "Send Me" Sing! Prayer and Praise #202

The scriptures say God knows us all by name.
Don't be afraid when the Spirit calls.
There's a whisper now, listen way deep down
once we hear it then every bush is ablaze!
God is listening hoping we'll respond
hoping we will say:

Chorus

Yes God, I'll go where you lead me. I hear your Spirit calling my name.
As long as I know you're with me, I know you'll give me the grace I need.
So here I am, send me Holy One. Here I am, send me Holy One.
Here I am, send me Holy One. Here I am, send me. Here I am send me.

So many needs, I see the peoples' pain.
O God, send me. I will share your love.
I will feed your sheep, comfort those who weep.
I will work for your justice and for your peace.
When I make mistakes, wash me in your grace,
then again I'll say: (Chorus)

Please be seated

Gospel Reading*Liturgy of the Palms; The Book of Matthew 21:1-11*

^{21:1} As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples ² with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. ³ If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.”

⁴ This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet: ⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Your Sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt— the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶ So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. ⁷ They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

⁸ Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. ⁹ The crowds—those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed—were all shouting,

“Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David!

Blessed is the One who comes

in the name of the Most High!

Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰ As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?”

¹¹ And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”

Homily

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.)

Please join in singing as we process for Holy Communion

Hymn **“Here I Am Lord”**

525

Here I Am, Lord

7.7.7.4 D with refrain

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; alt.

Harm. Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte, and John Weissrock, 1983

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time, 8 measures.

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

Piano accompaniment for the first verse, 8 measures.

All who dwell in deep-est sin My hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.

Piano accompaniment for the second verse, 8 measures.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Piano accompaniment for the third verse, 8 measures.

ORDINATION AND CONFIRMATION

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Unison

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard You call-ing in the night I will

go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your

peo - ple in my heart.

Fine

Anthem

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Words by Jennette Threlfall

Music by Ellacombe, Arranged by Mark Hayes

James Cesare, trumpet soloist

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 "On The Willows" from *Godspell*, by Stephen Schwartz



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!

Sean Cameron, Music Director

The Chancel Choir

Liturgist – Jenna Murphy

Usher – Dian Vaughan and Mariana Torres

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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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