

Assurance of God's Love

Friends, in the silence there is a "world aflame with joy" – a world of a community where everything it touches gains strength from the deep and eternal Joy that broke with that first morning...

It's where the *emptiness* is lost, where even hands withdrawn are warmed and warming.

It is Love. Presence. A presence and love that assures us – that God is delighted in us. Feel this warmth, this warmth of God's Delight and be assured of it...

Now, please rise as we pass the Joy and Peace of the Risen Christ

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace!

Friends, please be seated.

Anthem

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Words by F. S. Pierpoint, Music by John Rutter

Please remain seated.

Joys and Concerns

Friends, we now invite you to share your Joys, Celebrations and Concerns. Please wait for the microphone and respond with:

"God, hear our prayers."

*Please remain seated and join us in praying the **Prayer of Jesus**, this morning from
The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book*

The Prayer of Jesus

***Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father, Mother, Guardian of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, 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 and join in singing...

**Hymn “Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows”
New Century Hymnal #248 Verses: 1, 2, 3, 6**

Friends, please be seated.

Gospel Reading The Book of Mark 2:23 – 3:6

^{2:23} One Sabbath day Jesus took a walk through the grain fields, and the disciples began to pick ears of grain as they went along. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look, why are they doing something on the Sabbath day that is forbidden?”

²⁵ And Jesus replied, “Did you never read what David did in his time of need when he and his followers were hungry— ²⁶ how David went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the loaves of offering, which only the priests are allowed to eat, and how he also gave some to those with him?” ²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. ²⁸ That is why the Chosen One is ruler even of the Sabbath.”

^{3-1:} Returning to the synagogue, Jesus met someone who had a withered hand. ² Now the religious authorities were watching to see if Jesus would heal the individual on the Sabbath day, as they were hoping for some evidence to use against Jesus. ³ He said to the afflicted one, “Stand and come up front!” ⁴ Then he turned to them and said, “Is it permitted to do a good deed on the Sabbath—or an evil one? To preserve life or to destroy it?” At this they remained silent. ⁵ Jesus looked around at them with anger, for he was deeply grieved that they had closed their hearts so. Then Jesus said to the person, “Stretch out your hand.” The other did so, and the hand was perfectly restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and at once began to plot with the Herodians, discussing how to destroy Jesus.

Sermon

“Puritans, The Law, and The Sabbath”

Peter Maust, Congregational Voice

Anthem

"Sing to the Earth"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

Benediction

Church Covenant

Friends, with these words and the world that is warmed by our blend of Justice and Love and more, please rise and join in singing our 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.

The Bell is Rung

Postlude

"Better Than I"

Words and Music by John Bucchino



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more than a century and a half, 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, today we continue to celebrate God's love, to advocate and act for the oppressed, and to welcome all those on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for joining us. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation or with any questions you may have for us.

Today's Worship Leadership

Deacon Elders & Deacon Trustees

Sanctuary Readiness Angels!

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Mariana Torres; Usher – Diane Vaughan

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathi Leis, Mark Conrad

Connie Kauffman, Hank Maust

Laura Weyant, Building and Grounds

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782-3101

631-589-1519; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

www.sayvilleucc.org; www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc

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. For the ways of peace are many. "Namaste"