

Sixth Sunday of Easter Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ May 21, 2023

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Battle Hymn of the Republic" American melody

Arranged by Sid Richardson

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish and join in praying together:

Call to Worship

Enter freely into this time and space of worship where Love and Justice converge in inspiring and powerful ways.

A time and space where we set aside our differences to embrace what has always bound us: an unwavering belief in God and God in us.

May we be open to worshiping in ways that always lift our hands and our voices for those who have no voice or agency.

Enter freely into this time of space and worship where the One who calls us together – brings us together, as well.

May it be so.

Please remain as you are and join with us in singing our opening hymn:

Hymn "Like a Healing Stream" #73 Sing! Prayer and Praise

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

Unison Prayer

Gracious and loving God, in the face of injustice and violence, grant us courage

to stand firmly with You, knowing that Your presence strengthens and guides

us; for you are our Advocate and Companion.

Let Your Spirit empower us, as it has faithful leaders before, making us

instruments of change, unyielding in our pursuit of a world where justice flows

like a mighty river, where we may find solace, hope and unwavering resolve.

May we be the vessels You seek for others in need.

Assurance of God's Love

Friends, in the Presence of God in all the ways we know God, God

delights in us all, as only a Creator may. Know how you are loved; and

love in return.

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

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Hymn tune by George N. Allen

Arranged by Roy Ringwald

Please remain seated.

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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."

Pastoral Prayer

Please remain seated and join us in praying the **Prayer of Jesus**, as you learned to pray it...or as written here:

Prayer of Jesus

Creator God who is in heaven
Hallowed be your name.
Your kindom come, your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Forgive us our trespasses, as
We forgive others who trespass against us.
And, lead us not into temptation
But deliver us more closely to you.
Amen.

Friends, please remain seated.

First Reading 23rd Psalm

God, you are my shepherd--I want nothing more.
You lie me down in green meadows;
you lead me beside restful waters:
you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.

Even if I am surrounded by the shadows of Death, I fear no danger for you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they give me courage. You spread a table for me in the presence of those who oppose me, and you anoint my head with oil—my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, God, for days without end.

Anthem "Deep Peace"

by David Davenport

Gospel Reading Matthew 22: 34 - 40

³⁴⁻³⁶ When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had once again bested the Sadducees in their challenges, they gathered their forces for an all-out assault to embarrass him and prove him a phony. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

[From 22:41 ff. – adapted]:

This left the Pharisees no better than the Sadducees after they tried to trick Jesus. Unwilling to face losing again in another verbal exchange with Jesus, they stopped asking questions and moved on to other tactics to trap him.

Homily Roger Kauffman, Congregational Voice

Hymn "There is a Balm in Gilead" #553 New Century Hymnal

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 "Ashokan Farewell"

by Jay Ungar

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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
Congregational Voice – Roger Kauffman
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy
Usher – Michael Hoff
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathi Leis, Mark Conrad
Connie Kauffman, Hank Maust

Laura Weyant, Building and Grounds

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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"