



"Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where you are welcome long before you arrive!"

Communion Sunday ~ June 4, 2023

PRIDE MONTH Welcome!



Reflection

"They can try to ban us. They can try to get rid of our health care. They can try to deny us housing, credit, and public accommodations. They can try to shame us. They can try all they want to erase us, but at some point, they will realize the trans community is never going away.

"Trans people are everywhere.

Every country, every race, every ethnicity, every religion, every socioeconomic level, every period of human history — we are everywhere. We are natural. You can't rid of what's natural. I think they know that, and it terrifies them."

Charlotte Clymer - Transgender activist, press secretary, and writer.

Juli Grey-Owens

Juli's passion for the work of GENY (Gender Equality New York) is evident in all that she does to educate and advocate for the transgender, non-binary, and intersex communities. As the Executive Director and founder of the organization, Juli works tirelessly to pass necessary legislation, provide opportunities for community members to connect, and to educate the public by organizing and delivering "Trans 101" sessions across the state. She has provided training for health care providers, government agencies, police departments, school personnel and camp directors.

Juli describes her privilege as "five aces in a poker game" – being born male, white, able-bodied, and considered cisgender and hetero. She has used that privilege for the benefit of others as a leader in the fight for equality. For over 17 years, Juli has been a driving force for change on behalf of the transgender community and has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the fight for equality.

Juli's family moved several times before settling in New Jersey where she attended grade school, high school and college. After engineering school and receiving her MBA from Rutgers University, Juli had a 40-year successful career in manufacturing. Here she honed her leadership and management skills. "The best way to lead is by listening" is one of her guiding principles and it has served her well.

She met her first wife when they were 14. Their eventual 25-year marriage produced their daughter Sally. Ultimately, Juli's gender identity would contribute to the end of the marriage. After her Dad's passing at age 69, she realized that "life is short" and she embarked on the journey to becoming her true self.

Juli has been the chair or co-chair of several advocacy organizations. She served six years on the Board of Directors of the Empire State Pride Agenda, the New York LGBT advocacy organization, prior to founding GENY. In 2017 she was recognized by City & State magazine as one of the "10 People Making a Difference for LGBT New Yorkers." In 2019 she was again recognized by City & State magazine in their Pride Power 100 list.

Juli met her wife Barbara in 2006, and they married in 2011. They live in Huntington, NY with their three cats Sylvia, Fraidy and Buggy. While their lives are a whirlwind of activity centered around the work of GENY, they also enjoy travel and cheering for the Mets, Islanders, Giants and Jets. Her bucket list includes visits to Mount Rushmore, the Alamo, and Yellowstone.

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *“Tenderly” Music by Walter Gross, Words by Jack Lawrence*
Sean Cameron and Jimmy Cesare, trumpet

Call to Worship

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish and join me in this morning’s “Call to Worship”:

We open our hearts and our minds,
We set aside – for a moment –
The chaos...
Not to forget
 but to remember:
How good it is to be in worship together.

To remember the beauty of Gender (another word for God?)
 In all its expressions and gifts;
To embrace ways to end Gun Violence;
To stand firmly in the tenets of our faith, calling out:
 “Black Lives Matter”.
Calling out: “All are welcome here”.

Yes! We say Yes!
We celebrate who it is God has created us to be –
to be *out* in the world, free –
With God’s love and beauty and healing power in each of us.

Welcome to this place and to our worship time together.
Be assured of our commitment to “see” you, to “see” each other,
To “listen and hear” – and to remember
God in us, as you know God. YES, “Emmanuel”.

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

Hymn “Welcome to This House” (Modified) Sing! Prayer and Praise #7

Welcome to this house, open and affirming.
In God’s Love, we are all one. Hand in hand we stand.
Welcome to this house, caring and accepting,
In God’s Love, we are all one.
Welcome to this house of Love.

Welcome to this house, there is room for everyone.
All will sing, praises we bring. Let us all be one.
Welcome to this house, where God gives the call to serve.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house, blessed by Word and Harmony.
People of God, born of God’s Love; You are wanted here.
Welcome to this house, filled with peace and charity,
People of God, born of God’s Love;
Welcome to this house of Love.

Unison Prayer

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

We know this: God’s Love is for All.
Acts of silence that limit God’s Love
cannot possibly be God’s way. We say.
So, we live with radical hospitality – and by no means quietly!
We gather and celebrate and break the “silence”.
We make our “Holy Spirit-Wind” to let all know how delighted in
and loved are we – by God.
Imbued with all God’s magnificent and many colors;
God’s astounding and spectacular shadows and blends.

Anthem "All You Need Is Love"

Words and Music by John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Assurance of God's Love

Loving God, of course you love and delight in us! Inspire us with the abundance and assurance of your love –

*and when we forget remind us with the one before us;
the one who needs the love you've given us to share.*

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.

Joys and Concerns

Please respond with "God hear our prayers."

Pastoral Prayer

Please rise if you will...

The Prayer Jesus Taught His Disciples

In Matthew Chapter 6 vss. 1-13, Jesus talks to the disciples about how to pray. This is what he taught them to say. Please join with these words or the ones you wish to pray:

"Abba God in heaven, hallowed be your name!

**May your reign come; may your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven: give us today the bread of Tomorrow.
And forgive us our debts, as we hereby forgive those
who are indebted to us.**

Don't put us to the test, but free us from evil." [Amen.]

Friends, please be seated.

Anthem "Let Us Break Bread Together"
American folk hymn Arranged by Craig Courtney

First Reading Psalm 8 (The Inclusive Bible)

YHWH, how majestic are all your Names in all creation!
You have placed your glory above the heavens!
From the lips of infants and children
you bring forth words of power and praise,
to answer your adversaries
and to silence the hostile and vengeful.
When I behold your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place—
what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?
Who are we that you should care for us?
You have made us barely less than God,
and crowned us with glory and honor.
You have made us responsible
for the works of your hands,
putting all things at our feet—
all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.
YHWH, how majestic are your Names in creation!

Homily Juli Grey-Owens, Friend & Executive Director
Gender Equality New York (GENY)
<https://genderequalityny.org>

Hymn "Great Spirit God" (Dakota Hymn) NCH #341 vs. 1,2

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer" by Don Besig

Benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (Modified)

"And now my friends, I say this: 'Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones send greetings to you. May the grace of Jesus the Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! Amen.'"

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 us 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.

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "True Colors"

Words and Music by Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly



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.

Thank you!

Juli Grey-Owens, Guest Speaker

Deacon Elders & Deacon Trustees
Sanctuary Readiness Angels!

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Trumpet Soloist – James Cesare

Liturgist – Kris Minschke; Usher – Diane Vaughan

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

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