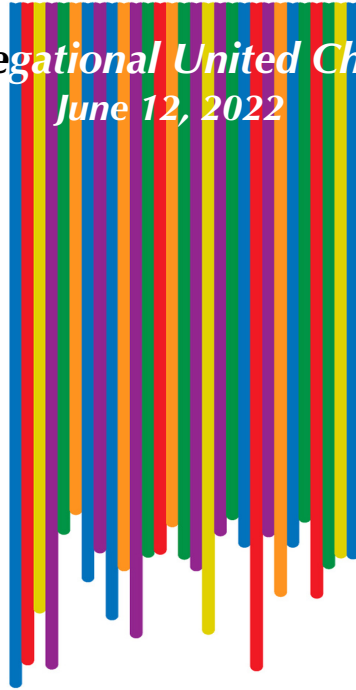




*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*

*June 12, 2022*



**EVERYONE**  
*is welcome here*  
*Long before you arrive!*



In March 2020, our lives and how we gathered (or not) were forever changed by COVID restrictions. Once we knew we needed to suspend worship together in our sanctuary, along with all the other ways in which we came together – we quickly shifted to an intense time of ZOOM-learning. Daily check-ins for months, bible jam, board meetings, committee meetings, worship and more – all to the Internet.

Initially to keep worship vibrant, we edited our archives of live-streamed services and assembled weekly 1 hour 10 AM video services every Sunday. Sean provided pre-recorded music and sermons were recorded from backyards to Calverton Memorial Cemetery (for Memorial Day worship).

Eventually the choir began rehearsing over Zoom, anthems were practiced and recorded. Final tracks of the choir and the accompaniment were assembled and edited by Sean for some of the most beautiful and uplifting music created anywhere – especially for such a time.

When it became safe to do so, we began recording our liturgists over Zoom from their homes and then editing it all together with the other elements of worship. Before too long, we began recording liturgists and the choir in the sanctuary, moving always closer to our return, all while our Sanctuary Return Committee carefully and lovingly guided us back.

And, our first Sunday “back” arrived on August 30, 2020 – 23 weeks from the time we stepped away from in-person worship. We were among the first houses of worship to carefully and cautiously “return”.

In the weeks that followed, we missed only three Sundays in the Sanctuary, returning to online worship: once because of weather and twice for safety from potential contact with the virus on a previous Sunday.

Through it all – we never missed a Sunday worship time together, including special observations such as Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and even an Easter Sunrise service of sorts! And we have grown healthier and stronger ever since.

During our PRIDE month that year on Sunday, June 28, 2020, we recorded different leaders and speakers, all of whom you can watch and listen on our website. This morning, with Patricia Mahar’s permission, we will replay Patricia as liturgist and the Call to Worship on that day, filmed in her beautiful and sacred garden. Please follow along with the prayer that you can read in that section of today’s bulletin.

And *then* -- something else happened. We offer part of Patricia’s “coming out” story that was unplanned and surely a moment the Spirit had long-planned for our friend.



## **Ringling of the Bell**

**Prelude**            An excerpt from “Ballade” by Claude Debussy

## **Call to Worship**

Patricia Mahar, Sunday, June 28, 2020

Please join me in this blended responsive prayer as we gather to worship on this Pride Sunday.

Pray with me in the spirit and voices of our Muslim, Jewish Universalist and Christian communities, as we join with all who pray for justice and peace.

Pray with me in the spirit and voices that welcome all who are Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gay, Queer, and Questioning.

Join me with open and affirming hearts with actions that show the Love of God for all. Even those who have yet to learn to love the Queer Family of which they too, are a part.

*And then this happened...*

*The following is provided to help you follow along or to revisit at a later time...*

Sometimes it's hard for me to verbalize what I really want to say. And I'm so happy that I've been asked to do this on Pride Sunday...because coming out has been a big job for me. A real big, big step forward in creating a freeness about me that I didn't have before. I knew people in church knew that I was gay, but I never said the words, "I am gay" and never really discussed it with my family. So today is kind of special for me. I'm happy to do this and it took me a very long time. Too long.

But when I think of where I came from in the 50's, to here we are in the 20's. What a difference it is - that people have to know - younger people who are coming out, really have to know how difficult really difficult it has been for many of us who were born or lived during the time of the 50s 60s and 70s. And I just wish them courage. And love and love from their families and just live their life and love for other people.

And I think that's all I have to say right now.

[Well, not quite... 😊)

It's true. It too me so long. But my partner Mabel, she was out there left and right and I used to get so embarrassed. We'd be walking down the street and she'd want to hold my hand or my arm and it was like, "Leave me alone!"

I was so worried about losing my job. Because this was in the 70's coming from 60's into the 70's and 80's. And all that time that's all I could think of: *If I lose my job, what am I going to do and what's going to happen?*

So that was a big fear. And a big threat in my life [and] was why I couldn't come forward and be who I was. And she [Mabel] taught me a lot.

I'll never forget the time we had...I'd been here for a while, we've been here for a while in the neighborhood. I don't know whether the neighbor up the block came in to say "Hi, hello. How are you?" And Mabel being as she was says, "Well, I just want you to know that I'm gay!" And I'm like, "Do you have to -- I don't even know this woman. And you're coming out and telling her that you're gay!" Well, we had a row after that.

I said "Why did you do that? She doesn't know us we don't know her. Where's it all gonna go?"

She's "Don't worry about it. Just be who you are."

And took me a long time to be who I am. But that really, that threw me for a curve. But I'm very grateful to be in this church because the open and affirming was a wonderful thing.

So, I'm saying to myself, "Self, this is the time to really talk about it. I don't think there'll be any negativity there at all. But it's just the fear. I just have to lose that. And it's dissipating little by little it's taking me baby steps to take giant steps."

I was going through pictures and pictures of myself when I was in the convent was like, "Oh my God"! It was amazing. Because at one time I went through pictures, I put all that stuff in a big box. I don't want to deal with that right now. And it's been in the closet for so long. And then - all of a sudden - I took it out and looked through it and we're so lucky to live and the times that we're living even though they're difficult right now. Yup. *Finished*

## **Hymn**

*Friends, please rise if you wish as you are and join in singing,  
"Song of the Soul".*

# Song of the Soul

Cris Williamson

Cris Williamson

♩ = 120

A E Bm7 E Bm7

1. Love of my life I am cry - ing I am not dy - ing I am  
 2. What do you do for your liv - ing? Are you for - giv - ing, giv - ing  
 3. Come to your life like a war - rior, no - thing can bore yer, you can be

7 Bm E A A6 E Bm E

danc - ing. Danc - ing a - long in the mad - ness, there is no sad ness,  
 shelt - er? Fol - low your heart love will find you, truth will un - bind you,  
 hap - py. Let in the light it will heal you, and you can feel you, and

14 Bm7 E A E A D

on - ly a song of the soul And we'll sing this song, why don't you sing a -  
 sing out a song of the soul.  
 sing out a song of the soul.



23 A F#m Bm E D A D6 A

long and we can sing for a long, long time

32 A E A D A

Why don't you sing this song, why don't you sing a long,

40 F#m Bm E D A C#m D7 E7 A C#m D7

and we can sing for a long, long time.

52 E7 C#m F#m Bm E E7 D C#m A

and we can sing for a long, long time.

*Please be seated and join us in this morning's prayer built on comments by South Africa's Nobel peace laureate, the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*

## **Unison Prayer**

***I would refuse to go to a homophobic  
[transphobic, queerphobic] heaven.  
I would say, No, sorry, I would much rather  
go to the other place.  
I would not worship such a narrow God  
and that is how deeply feel about this.  
I am as passionate about these rights for our Queer family,  
as I ever was about apartheid. For me: it is at the same level.  
People are literally paying for their love with their lives.***

**This is ours. This passion. Is ours.  
This steadfast love for all that joins us – joins us forever.  
It is what strengthens us in sorrow and encourages us in joy.  
It is what we are called to in serving one another, to...**

**Do justice. Love mercy.  
Walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)**

**It is the answer to the question, "Why?"  
The question is, "Will we?"  
The answer must be, "Yes." However we may, "Yes."**

*Please rise as you wish...*

## **Assurance of God's Love & Passing of the Peace**

Yes. Know this assurance of God's Love as God's "Yes" to us, as we share the peace from our affirmations with "Yes" to one another:

**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.*

## **Solo Musical Praise**

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

Words by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music by Richard Rogers  
Jeannine McKenna, soloist

## **Joys and Concerns**

*Friends, we now invite you to share your Joys and Concerns.*

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

Friends, as we pray please create space for the many who reach out to God in so many ways. If these words do not warm or comfort you, please, pray with the words that do, knowing the appreciation that is shared for your generosity in praying for a moment as others may, in an expression of kindness, mercy and justice.

“The Lord’s Prayer for Transgender Awareness” (Adapted)

Written by Rev Kim Sorrells

Our Creator, Guardian, Great Spirit God  
in whom we move and have our being,  
the holiness of your name shines forth  
in the diversity of the humanity we share.

May your will be the way we live,  
the way we invite others to live.

Grant that our Transgender and Queer siblings,  
have fullness of love and life, in all the same ways we wish  
for one another.

Forgive us in the ways we have fallen short,  
in our actions, demeanor and welcoming.

Help us forgive those who have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation of complacency,  
leading us instead in the ways of courage and compassion,  
for your justice and love is for all.

Now and forever. Amen

**First Reading**     Proverbs     (Proverbs 8:1-4, 12-14, 22)

Doesn't Wisdom call?  
Doesn't Understanding raise her voice?  
On the hills along the road,  
at crossroads, she takes a stand;  
beside the city gates of the town,  
in the gates themselves, she cries out,  
"People everywhere,  
I'm calling out to you!  
I cry out to all of humankind!"  
I, Wisdom, am the habitat of sound judgment,  
the source of clear thinking.  
To revere YHWH is to abhor evil.  
I despise pride and arrogance,  
corrupt behavior and deceptive words.  
I have a good counsel and sound judgment;  
I have understanding and power as well.  
YHWH gave birth to me at the beginning,  
before the first acts of creation.  
I have been from everlasting, in the beginning,  
before the world began."

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

**Gospel Reading** Gospel of John (John 16:12-15)

(Jesus said)

“I have much more to tell you, but you can’t bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, She will guide you into all truth. She won’t speak on her own initiative; rather, she’ll speak only what she hears, and she’ll announce to you things that are yet to come. In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you. Everything that Abba God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.”

**Congregational Voice** Barbara Salva

**Hymn** “The One Who Began a Good Work...”  
Sing! Prayer and Praise #200 (Sing 2X)

The One who began a good work in you;  
The One who began a good work in you,  
Will be faithful to complete it,  
will be faithful to complete it.  
The One who started the work  
will be faithful to complete it.

## **Benediction**

Church Covenant      (Read)

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."

## **Choral Blessing**

"The Peace of God"      Adapted from Phillipians 4:7-8  
Music by Douglas E. Wagner

## **Ringling of the Bell**

**Postlude**      "Unexpressed"  
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.

### **Thank you, All - Including**

Barbara Salva, Congregational Voice

Jeannine McKenna, Soloist

Deacon Elders & Deacon Trustees

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Karen Maust; Ushers – Diane Vaughn

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,

Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782-3101

631-589-1519; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

[www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org); [www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc](http://www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc)

Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor [ray@sayvilleucc.org](mailto:ray@sayvilleucc.org) 631-827-8611 (Cell/Text)

Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at

[www.echimestv.org](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

*Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many. "Namaste"*