



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

June 25, 2023





Be a Part of Church School!

The Deacon Elders will be holding a meeting to start working out the steps needed to begin a Sunday School program. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in working with us towards that vision. We will be meeting in the vestry on Tuesday, June 27th at 7P.M.. We look forward to seeing you.

EVERYONE
is welcome here

Long before you arrive!

Unison Prayer

(by Rev. Bob Howard, Community Christian Church, Tempe, AZ - Modified)

O Infinite Love, bathe us with Your beams of compassion for all of us, reflections of your [many – gendered] image. Help us to see the beauty, your beauty of Transgender, Queer and all persons.

*Turn our marginalization and fragmentation
into a new prism of light, that radiates life and love!*

Give us hearts to nourish courage into a wild daring of acceptance for all to celebrate.

Show us how to find each other in you,
As we know you.

Please rise as you wish...

Assurance of God's Love & Passing of the Peace

In God's "unfathomable depths of creativity", we come to know God by many names. So, friends, by whatever name it is you may know God, be assured of this: God Loves us All.

With this and more in mind...

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.

Chancel Choir

"Take Me To Higher Ground"

Words and Music by Carl Strommen

Joys and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

A Prayer of Jesus

First: A Prayer of Jesus translated from the Aramaic language:

O Birther! Mother-Father of all the Cosmos,
focus your light within us – make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now –
through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us: [so we may]
feel the Wisdom underneath us – supporting all.
Untangle the knots within us
so that we can mend our hearts ties to each other.
Help us be free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire emerges –
returning light and sound to the cosmos.
Amen

And now, perhaps, in more familiar ways:

Creator God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kin-dom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please remain seated...

First Reading “A Second Train Song for Gary” by Jack Spicer

When the trains come into strange cities
The citizens come out to meet the strangers.
I love you, Jack, he said
I love you, Jack, he said

At another station.
When passengers come in from strange cities
The citizens come out to help the strangers.
I love you too, I said
I love you too, I said

From another station.
The citizens are kind to passing strangers
And nourish them and kiss their lips in kindness.
I walk the unbelieving streets
I walk the unbelieving streets

In a strange city.
At night in cold new beds the welcomed strangers
Achieve in memory the city's promise.
I wake in love with you
I wake in love with you

At last year's station.
Then say goodbye to citizens and city
Admit this much—that they were kind to strangers.
I leave my love with you
I leave my love with you
In this strange city.

Hymn

“Spirit of the Living God”

New Century Hymnal #283

New Testament Reading Acts of the Apostles 15: 3-12

³All the members of the church saw them off, and as they made their way through Phoenicia and Samaria, Paul and Barnabas told how the Gentiles had been converted. Their story was received with great joy among the sisters and brothers. ⁴ When Paul’s group arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by that church, and by the apostles and the elders, to whom they gave an account of all that God had accomplished through them.

⁵Some of the converted Pharisees got up and demanded that such Gentiles be forced to convert to Judaism first, before being baptized, and be told to follow the Law of Moses. ⁶ Accordingly, the apostles and the elders convened to look into the matter.

⁷After much discussion, Peter said to them, “Friends, you know that God chose me from your midst a long time ago—so that the Gentiles would hear the message of the Gospel from my lips and believe. ⁸ God, who can read everyone’s heart, bore witness to this by granting the Holy Spirit to them as the Spirit has been granted to us. ⁹ God made no distinction, but purified their hearts as well by means of faith.

¹⁰ “Why, then, do you put God to the test by trying to place on the shoulders of these converts a yoke which neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? ¹¹ But just as we believe we are saved through the grace of Jesus Christ, so are they.” ¹² At this, the whole assembly fell silent.

Congregational Voices

Randolf Pearson and Jesus “Jesse” Ramos

Solo

“Sunshine On My Shoulders”

Words by John Denver

Music by John Denver, Mike Taylor and Dick Kniss

Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy
Sunshine in my eyes can make me cry
Sunshine on the water looks so lovely
Sunshine almost always makes me high

If I had a day that I could give you
I'd give to you a day just like today
If I had a song that I could sing for you
I'd sing a song to make you feel this way

Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy
Sunshine in my eyes can make me cry
Sunshine on the water looks so lovely
Sunshine almost always makes me high

If I had a tale that I could tell you
I'd tell a tale sure to make you smile
If I had a wish that I could wish for you
I'd make a wish for sunshine all the while

Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy
Sunshine in my eyes can make me cry
Sunshine on the water looks so lovely
Sunshine almost always makes me high
Sunshine almost all the time makes me high
Sunshine almost always...

Benediction

Church Covenant (Read in Unison)

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 Philippians 4:7-8
Music by Douglas Wagner

**Closing: A Personal PRIDE Reading
by Irish McCarthy**

My father asked: Are you gay?

I asked: Does it matter?

He said: No, not really said: Yes I am

He responded: Out of my life guess it did matter

My boss asked me: Are you gay? I asked: Does it matter?

He said: No, not really say: Yes I am

He responded: You're fired guess it did matter

My friend asked me: Are you gay? I asked: Does it matter?

She said: No, not really said: Yes I am

She said: Don't call me your friend guess it did matter

My partner asked me: Do you love me? asked: Does it matter?

My partner said: Yes it does said: Yes I do

My partner responded: Let me hug you

For the first time in my life, something mattered

God asked me: Do you love yourself?

I asked: Does it matter?

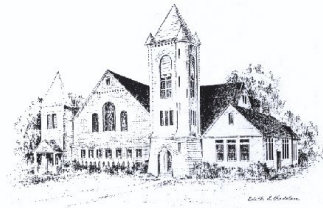
He said: Yes it does

I said: How can I love myself if I am gay?

He said: That's how I created you

Ever since, nothing mattered again....

Postlude "I Am What I Am" from *La Cage aux Folles*
Words and Music by Jerry Herman



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

Randolf Pearson and Jesse Ramos, Congregational Voices

Deacon Elders & Deacon Trustees

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Randolf Pearson; Ushers – Diane Vaughan;

Hospitality – Christine Hoff

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,

Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Livestream - www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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



Dear Baker,

First, let me say thank you for donating your time and baking talents to our Annual Bake Sale on Friday, July 14th at the Sayville Ferry Dock! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

All baked goods must arrive at the church pre-packaged. Baked goods should be delivered to our church kitchen between Noon and 1PM on Friday, July 14th.

In the next week or so, there will be a supply of “baggies” and other wrapping materials available. We will have labels for the name of your creations, and to include a list of ingredients, stating whether your baked goods contain nuts, peanut butter, or other allergy-causing ingredients.

In packaging, please try to follow these guidelines:

Cookies	Large Cookies (6 in a package)	Small Cookies (8 in a package)
Brownies	Large Brownies (4 in a package)	Small Brownies (6 in a package)
Bars	6 Bars to a package	
Muffins	Large Muffins (4 in a package)	Small Muffins (6 in a package)

Volunteers who are helping to price, box, transport and be there for the selling and fun - can arrive at our church kitchen any time after 12 Noon on the 14th. We will be loading cars and going to the Sayville Ferry Dock at 41 River Road around 2:30 P.M. to set-up and be ready for the 3:00 PM ferry.

If you are planning to bake or to help at the Bake Sale, please let me know. And don't forget, if baking isn't your thing, we are happy to accept cash donations!

Thank you again!

Sue Lanchantin