



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 13, 2023

Enlarged Copies of the Bulletin are on the Front Pew

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "First Gymnopédie" by Erik Satie

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

Unison Prayer Adapted from With Open Hands by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Dear God,
Speak gently in our silence.
When the loud outer noises of our surroundings
and the loud inner noises of our fears
keep pulling us away from you,
help us trust that you are still there
even when we are unable to hear you.
Give us ears to listen to your small, soft voice saying:
"Come to me, you who are overburdened,
and I will give you rest...
for I am gentle and humble of heart."
Let that loving voice be our guide.
Amen.

Please remain standing or seated, as you wish.

Hymn "Arise, Shine" Sing! Prayer and Praise #68

Arise, Shine for your light has come!
And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!

Arise, shine let the light of love shine through!
And the world will see the brightness of the new day in you!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice!

Please be seated.

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, you have made us people of hope. You have filled us with an energy for justice and visions of dreams for a world in which – one day – all will embrace your love and know the joy of caring for each other.

We are your people. Help us, please, to reach out to all -- reflecting you – yes, you. Guide us, as you will. And may we, always, say “Yes” in your name.

A Moment of Silence

Please remain seated.

Hymn “Spirit of the Living God” New Century Hymnal #283

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

The Prayer of Jesus

From the New Zealand Book of Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Creator God of us all,
Loving God, in who is all about us:
The blessings of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come upon us.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, 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 be seated.

Musical Praise "Give Me Jesus!" Spiritual tune
Arranged by William Arms Fisher
Karen Maust, soloist

Scriptural Reading: 1 Kings 19:8b -18

[Elijah] ^{8b} Strengthened by that food, he traveled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of YHWH came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
¹⁰ Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me, too."

¹¹ God said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of YHWH, for YHWH is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks by YHWH's power—but YHWH was not in the whirlwind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but YHWH was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire—but YHWH was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me, too."

¹⁵ Yhwh told Elijah, "Go back the way you came, to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael as ruler of Aram. ¹⁶ Also anoint Jehu ben-Nimshi as ruler over Israel, and anoint Elisha ben-Shaphat, from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve 7,000 in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Ba'al and all whose mouths have not kissed his images."

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

Hymn "Come Sweet Justice" Sing! Prayer and Praise #137

The world is hungry for justice, God's word will point the way.

The One who came to speak the truth, to challenge those who say:

that we need not care for strangers, the sick, the lost, the poor,

the voiceless ones, the outcast, the honored guests of God.

(Refrain) O come, O come, sweet justice come.

O come, O come, sweet justice come.

When will we learn how to see them, each one a child of God?

When will our voices raise for them, demand their stories heard?

Do we wait until all hope is gone, their songs die away?

With passion we must rise up, risk in the name of God. (Refrain)

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

Church Covenant (Also found on the back cover of the New Century Hymnal)

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.

Benediction

Choral Blessing "Give Peace Again" by James Ahrend

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Beautiful City" from *Godspell*, by Stephen Schwartz



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, Worship Leadership!

Karen Maust, soloist

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Karen Maust; Usher – Diane Vaughan

Hospitality – Christine Hoff

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathi Leis, Mark Conrad

Connie Kauffman, Hank Maust; Sue Lanchantin “At the Narthex!”

Laura Weyant, Building and Grounds

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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”

Please visit our website for the latest announcements: www.sayvilleucc.org