



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023

Enlarged Copies of the Bulletin are on the Front Pew

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "La Vie en Rose" by Louiguy

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

Call to Worship Psalm 133 – from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when kin dwell in unity!
It is like vistas seen from atop a mountain
one has climbed...
Or like the stillness of a sunset
after a long day's work.

It is like a shimmering rainbow,
breaking through a summer rain.
When people dwell in harmony,
the star of Truth appears!

Please remain standing or seated, as you wish.

Hymn "Let it Breathe on Me" #288 New Century Hymnal

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,
Let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me.
Let the breath of God breathe on me.

While I'm working, God, in your vineyard here,
I cannot serve without you near;
O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me
that I may feel you breathe on me.

When the pathway, God, I cannot see,
when the way is hard, O breathe on me;
Give me peace to know when you are near,
Then, I pray, O Spirit, breathe on me.

Please be seated.

Intercessory Prayer

Creator God,
You call us to love and serve you
with body mind and spirit
through loving your creation
and our siblings, all.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of all the needs of the church and the world.

Joys and Concerns *Response: God, hear our prayers.*

Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make your welcome
in our concerns for others and
in our serving them in their needs,
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

A Moment of Silence

*Please stand if you wish and join in praying the Prayer of Jesus, this morning taken
from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

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 remain standing and join in the Passing of the Peace of Christ

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Musical Praise

"I Can Only Imagine" By Bart Millard
Barbara Salva and Vicky Elfe-Camacho, soloists

Gospel Reading: The Gospel of Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

(In this gospel Jesus uses the word “blind” not as being non-sighted but in a spiritual non-seeing – even what is before you – way.)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd together and said to them, “Hear this and understand: ¹¹ it’s not what enters your mouth that defiles you—it’s what comes out of your mouth that defiles you.”

¹² Then the disciples approached him and said, “Do you realize that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “Every plant that my Abba God in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Ignore them— they are blind people leading other blind people. And when the blind lead the blind, they all will fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵ Then Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “Do you still not understand? ¹⁷ Don’t you realize that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and eventually finds its way into the sewer and is gone? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart. This is what makes a person ‘unclean.’ ¹⁹ For from the heart come all sorts of evil intentions... even foul language. ²⁰ These things make a person unclean—not eating with unwashed hands!”

²¹ Jesus left there and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, “Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed.”

²³ Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, “Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us.”

²⁴ Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, “My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”

²⁵ She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, "Help me, Rabbi!"

²⁶ He answered, "But it isn't right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

²⁷ "True, Rabbi," she replied, "but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table."

²⁸ Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." at that very moment her daughter was healed.

Sermon "You have to be taught how to *undo*..."

Please remain seated.

Hymn "Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor" New Century Hymnal #590

Spirit of Jesus, if I love my neighbor,
out of my knowledge, leisure, power or wealth,
open my mind to understand the anger of the helplessness
that hates my power to help.

And if when I have answered with kindness,
My neighbor rises, wakened from despair,
Open my heart to hear the cry for justice that struggles
For the changes that I fear.

If I am hugging safety or possessions,
uncurl my spirit, as your love prevails,
to join my neighbors, work for liberation,
and find my freedom at the mark of love.

Benediction

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.

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer" by Doug Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Singing With A Stranger" by Gabriel Kahane



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!

Barbara Salva and Vicky Elfe-Camacho, soloists

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Kristine Hoaghtalen; 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

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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”

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