



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023

Enlarged Copies of the Bulletin are on the Front Pew

The Bell is Rung

Prelude “Anyone Can Whistle” Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Please stand or remain seated if you wish.

Call to Worship

This is our time, whoever we may be,
a time in which *we* add *our voice* to *the story*.
Through words and sights and sounds (of silence, too):
“Who we are” and “Whose we are” is revealed,

Let this be the answer to *our* call:
“That we listen well to God’s voice in us,
as we join together in prayer and
when we go from here – we follow.

Please remain standing or seated, as you wish.

Hymn “I Sing as I Arise Today” New Century Hymnal #83

I sing as I arise today!
I call on my Creator’s might:
The Will of God to be my guide,
The eye of God to be my sight.

The word of God to be my speech,
The hand of God to be my stay,
The shield of God to be my strength,
The path of God to be my way.

Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia.

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 kin.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these joys, concerns, celebrations and petitions
on behalf of us all.

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

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Intercessory Prayer

Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we, entrusted with the riches and grace
of all your creation, care for one another –
reflecting your love and abundance
in all the ways we follow you. 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

First Reading: Isaiah: 51:1-6 (Speaking for YHWH)

“Listen closely to what I say, you who pursue justice, you who seek YHWH, consider the rock from which you were hewn, the quarry from which you were cut: Look to Abraham, your father, and Sarah, your mother who bore you. They were but one couple when I called them, but I blessed them and made them many. Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion, will give comfort to all its ruins— will turn its desert into an Eden; its desert will be like the garden of YHWH. Joy and happiness will be found there, thanksgiving and the sound of music.

“Hear me, my people! Listen to me, my nation! For instruction comes from me, and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples. My vindication draws near, my deliverance approaches; my arm will bring justice to the people and the islands will put their hope in me. They will put their future in my hands. Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens, then look to the earth below: for the heavens will vanish like smoke; the earth will wear out like a coat, and those who live on it will die like flies. But my liberation will last forever, my vindication will never fail.”

Musical Praise “How Great Thou Art” by S. K. Hime
Bob Acker, soloist

Gospel Reading: The Gospel of Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven.

¹⁸ I also tell you this: your name now is ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

¹⁹ “Here— I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

²⁰ Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon “Say you...”

Please remain seated.

Hymn “Pray” Sing! Prayer and Praise #122

Pray, pray, pray,
for peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray
for peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity;
Quiet our busy hearts.
Pray, pray, pray. Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray,
for peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray
for peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity;
comfort our anxious hearts.
Pray, pray, pray. Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray,
for peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray
for peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity;
open our angry hearts.
Pray, pray, pray. Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray,
for peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray
for peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity;
nourish our hungry hearts.
Pray, pray, pray. Pray, pray, pray.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "O God of Love (O Plena Gratia)"
English Text by Helen A Dickinson
Music by A. Gretchaninoff
Bob Acker, soloist



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!

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director
Bob Acker, soloist

Liturgist – Mariana Torres; Usher – Sue Lanchantin

Hospitality – Christine Hoff

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathi Leis, Mark Conrad

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

Laura Weyant, Building and Grounds

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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