



*The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
September 17, 2023*

*Enlarged Copies are Available on the Front Pew*

"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity.  
It's something we are all touched by.  
No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music."

~ Billy Joel

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Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Wo soll ich fliehen hin" by J. S. Bach

*Please rise or remain seated and join us in our Call to Worship*



## Call to Worship

How good it is to be together;  
to gather in prayer and praise and song.

Our worship time brings us closer to you,  
*Rhythmic Moving Embracing God,*

from the beats of our hearts to the music  
that fills this holy space;

conducted from deep within the Spirit's sacred movement.

We lift our voices in prayers and praise and song,  
As you touch the silence within,

From which out welcoming flows...

Come friends and let our hearts and souls sing, and sing, and sing!

*Please remain as you are and join with us in singing our opening hymn:*

Hymn        "Welcome to this Place" #40    Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal

Welcome into this place.  
Welcome into this broken vessel.  
You desire to abide in the praises of your people,  
so we lift our hands and we lift our hearts  
as we offer up this praise unto your name.

*Please remain as you are and join us in this morning's Unison Prayer.*

## Unison Prayer

May this prayer strum the rhythm of the universe  
from deeply within our connected being.

May these words we speak join with the words to come,  
even as we open ourselves  
to the spaces between each word;  
much like the pause, imperceptible as it is,  
between each breath.

There! Within that Divine in-spiration we share  
Is the sacredness and assurance of your presence:

One word, one breath,  
one love to the next: end-less, wonderfully end-less –  
tender, loving and full with wonder.

*Please remain standing for the Passing of the Peace of Christ*

## Passing of the Peace

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.*

Anthem "The Lord is Our Refuge"  
by J. S. Bach, arranged by Hal H. Hopson

*Please remain seated.*

## Joys, Concerns, and Celebrations

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

Please wait for the microphone and respond with:

“God, hear our prayers.”

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Prayer of Jesus

*Please remain seated and join us in praying the Prayer of Jesus as you learned to pray.*

Hymn      “Shadow and Substance”      #398 New Century Hymnal  
Verses 1, 3, 1

Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,  
Spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;  
Soul of the cosmos, person and energy,  
Source of our being: we sing of your worth.

Naming and nameless Spirit of unity,  
Scanning the heavens for signs of your care;  
God of the ages, give us humility;  
guide us to mystical union in prayer.

Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,  
Spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;  
Soul of the cosmos, person and energy,  
Source of our being: we sing of your worth.

Gospel Reading Matthew 18: 21-35

<sup>21</sup> Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sibling wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> “No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> And here’s why.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. <sup>24</sup> When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!’ <sup>27</sup> Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

<sup>28</sup> “Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’

<sup>29</sup> “The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!’ <sup>30</sup> But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

<sup>31</sup> “When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. <sup>32</sup> The ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ <sup>34</sup> Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be [restrained] until the debt had been paid in full.

<sup>35</sup> “My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive one another from your hearts.”

Anthem "Give Peace Again" by James Ahrend

## Homily

### Our Church Covenant

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 "Go Now In Peace" by Nancy Price and Don Besig

## The Bell is Rung

Postlude "Migratory V" Music and Lyrics by Adam Guettel



## *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.

### Today's Worship Leadership

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Jenna Murphy, Liturgist

Ushers, Diane Vaughan and Michael Hoff

Hospitality, Christine Hoff

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathy Leis,  
Mark Conrad, Connie Kauffman, Hank Maust  
Laura Weyant, Building and Grounds

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782-3101

631-589-1519; [churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org](mailto:churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org)

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

Please visit our website for the latest announcements: [www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org)