

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ September 24, 2023

Rev. Jeanne Baum, Minister of Word and Sacrament PC(USA) Guest Minister

Enlarged Copies are Available on the Front Pew

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Prelude for Organ No. 18" by C. H. Rinck

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

Call to Worship

We come to pray:
un-cling and un-clench from [that] which needs to be released.
Wade toward God...
splash in God's love of us And our love of one another.
Tumble freely into the light;
Warmed and sparkly; Holy by the Sacred Presence.
Brightly-be...

Still. Now.

Ah. Love...

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

Hymn "Love Has Come"

With one voice the angels sing, songs that make creation ring. Prophets here and call us to live in spirit and in truth.

(Refrain)
Word of God, enthroned,
dwell in us forever more.
Love has come to show the way.
Hallelujah, peace be with us.
Love has come to show the way.

God, Creator, Elohim, voice of thunder, spirit wind: breathe on me your very life; grace will make the shadows bright. (Refrain)

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

Unison Prayer

Breathe in. God is here.

Breathe deeply. In *response* to God's presence (as we know God).

Breathe as blessed by God's Love and Light.

Breathe out. So others may *know* this and more.

Breathe. God is here. 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 "Keep Me Faithfully in Thy Paths" by G. F. Handel

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 "O Grant Us Light" #469 New Century Hymnal vs. 1,3,1

O grant us light, that we may know wisdom alone that you can give, That truth may guide us as we go, and virtue bless the lives we live.

O grant us light that we may find where error lurks in human lore, And turn to you our seeking minds, and love your holy Word the more.

O grant us light, that we may know wisdom alone that you can give, That truth may guide us as we go, and virtue bless the lives we live.

First Reading Psalm 63 (Excerpt) From "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill O Love, You are my Beloved, and,

I long for You, my soul thirsts for You; All that is written in me thirsts, as in a dry and barren land with no water.

So I have called out to You in my heart, sensing your power and glory. Because your wondrous Love is Life in me, my lips will praise You. I would radiate your Love as long

as I live, becoming a blessing to others in gratitude to You.

...All who open their hearts to Love Will live in peace and joy.

Anthem "Lift Thine Eyes To The Mountain" by Felix Mendelssohn

Gospel Reading John 13: 31-35

³¹ Once Judas left, Jesus said,

"Now is the Chosen One glorified

and God is glorified as well.

³² If God has been glorified,

God will in turn glorify the Chosen One

and will do so very soon.

³³ My little children,

I won't be with you much longer.

You'll look for me,

but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you:

'Where I am going,

you cannot come.'

³⁴ I give you a new commandment:

Love one another.

And you're to love one another

the way I have loved you.

³⁵ This is how all will know that you're my disciples:

that you truly love one another."

Homily "Love is Not Just a Four-Letter Word" Rev. Jeanne Baum

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 "A Closing Prayer" by Doug Besig

The Bell is Rung

Postlude "If It's Magic" by Stevie Wonder



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 Rev. Jeanne Baum, Minister of Word and Sacrament PC(USA)

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director Mariana Torres, Liturgist Diane Vaughan and Michael Hoff, Ushers Christine Hoff, Hospitality

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

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

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