



*Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
October 29, 2023*

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Gott des Himmels und der Erden"  
by C.H. Rinck

*Please stand if you wish and join in this morning's Call to Worship*

Call to Worship

In this place of gratitude,  
respect for others;  
with willingness to struggle for justice,  
the courage to seek clarity,  
and a wide-openness to God, as we know God—  
we come first with love and welcome—  
for kin and stranger.  
For one and all.  
No exceptions.

*Please be seated.*

Anthem "Comfort Ye, My People" Isaiah 40:1-3  
Music by John Carter  
The Chancel Choir

Unison Prayer      by Joseph H. Gilmore

I want this to be a place  
where we can touch and be touched  
by the utterly,  
the unmistakably sacred –  
the breath in all breathing,  
the light in all seeing,  
the fire in every righteous anger,  
the resonance in deep silence,  
the love which graces and ennobles  
all loves,  
the hospitality which bids a welcome  
to each of our returnings –  
and grieves a little  
at each of our leavings.  
The unmistakably sacred  
which precedes all of our singing;  
the sighing which, when we are awake,  
calls us home to ourselves,  
where in our blood and bones  
the body of God dwells.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing of Christ's Peace

*Please be seated.*

Joys and Concerns

Please respond, "God, hear our prayers."

Pastoral Prayer

Response Hymn

“Ferry Our Prayers”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #105

Ferry our prayers across the water,  
Kindle our hopes a light house flame.  
Amazing grace is most amazing,  
Praying for those we cannot name.

Prayer of Jesus (Adapted) from *the New Zealand Prayer Book*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Guardian of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
May your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, 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.

Hymn

“Spirit of the Living God”

New Century Hymnal #283

Please be seated

First Reading      1 Thessalonians 2:1-8      (Inclusive Bible)

<sup>1</sup>And you yourselves know, [siblings], that our coming among you was not without effect. <sup>2</sup> We had, as you know, been given rough treatment at Philippi, and it was our God who gave us the courage to proclaim the Good News to you in the face of stiff opposition.

<sup>3</sup> We don't preach because of impure motives or deceit or any sort of trickery; <sup>4</sup> rather, it was God who decided that we are fit to be entrusted with the Good News, and when we are speaking, we're trying to please not mortals, but God, who can read our inmost thoughts. <sup>5</sup> You know very well—and we can swear it before God—that never at any time has our speech been simple flattery or a cover for trying to get money; <sup>6</sup> nor have we ever looked for any special honor from you or from anyone else—even though we could have imposed ourselves on you as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> On the contrary, while we were with you we were as gentle as any nursing mother caring for her little ones. <sup>8</sup> So well disposed were we toward you, in fact, that we were willing to share with you not only the Good News, but our very lives as well—you had become that dear to us.

Anthem      "What Fairer Name?"  
Words and Music by Sheldon Curry  
The Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:34-46

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus answered: “

‘You must love the Most High God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul and  
with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>

“That is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.”

<sup>41</sup> While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup> “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?”

They said, “David’s.”

<sup>43</sup> Then Jesus asked, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign’? For he says, <sup>44</sup> ‘The Most High said to my Sovereign,

“Sit at my right hand  
until I place your enemies under your foot.””

<sup>45</sup> “If David calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign,’ how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?”

<sup>46</sup> No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Homily

*Please remain seated*

Benediction

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*

Choral Blessing    "A Closing Prayer"  
by Don Besig

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude            "The Tale of Bear and Otter"  
Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub



*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*

For more nearly 175 years, 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, celebrate God's love, however you may know God, by our continuing to advocate for the oppressed, while welcoming all on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for being with us today. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation and questions you may have.

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Patricia Mahar, Liturgist

Mariana and Samantha Janosick-Torres, Hospitality

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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. Shanti. For the ways of peace are many. "Namaste"