



*Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
November 12, 2023*

*From Chapter 2 – “Higher Calling”
Out of Space, Creating Safe Spaces in Unlikely Places
By Julio C. Roman*

*“Widen the path of opportunities and continue to leave
a powerful and positive legacy in this world.”
~Luis Fonsi, Singer and Songwriter*

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude “Prelude for Organ, No. 3”
 by C. H. Rinck

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

Call to Worship (Adapted from Joseph Gilmore)

Being human is not such an easy assignment,
though it is a very great gift.
It is a blessing.
Being human requires
deep and forbearing love;
awareness of the content of our own hearts;
and great respect for the content of all other hearts.
It requires the doing of justice
so that everyone is always counted in.
It requires imagination
and an inclination to laugh, early and long.

*Welcome to this place of blessings, love, awareness, hearts, respect, justice,
where you all are counted in; a place of imagination, tears, and the healing of
laughter.*

Please be seated.

Anthem “What Fairer Name?”
 Words and Music by Sheldon Curry

Unison Prayer by Philip Appleman, American Poet

O Karma, Dharma, pudding & pie,
gimme a break before I die:
grant me wisdom, will & wit,
purity, probity, pluck & grit.
Trustworthy, helpful, friendly, kind,
gimme great abs and a steel-trap mind.
And forgive, Ye Gods, some humble advice –
these little blessings would suffice
to beget an earthly paradise:
make the bad people good
and the good people nice,
and before our world goes over the brink,
teach the believers how to think.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing of Christ's Peace

Joys and Concerns

Please respond, "God, hear our prayers."

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Response Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead" v.1 and 2

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
Who if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. (Refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. (Refrain)

First Reading Amos 5: 18-24

¹⁸ You who wish for the Day of YHWH to come— why do you want it? What will the Day of YHWH mean to you? It will be a day of darkness, not light! ¹⁹ It will be like running from a lion only to meet a bear, or like getting home safe at last, only to get bitten by a snake hiding in the corner!

²⁰ Rest assured: the Day of YHWH will be darkness, not light. It will all be gloom, without a single ray of light. ²¹ I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies! ²² When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!

²³ Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps! ²⁴ Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unending stream.

Please stand or remain seated, as you wish.

Hymn “Come Sweet Justice” Sing! Prayer and Praise #137

The world is hungry for justice, God’s Word will point the way.
The One who came to speak the truth, to challenge those who say:
that we need not care for strangers, the sick, the lost, the poor,
the voiceless, the outcast, the honored guests of God.

O come, O come, sweet justice come.

O come, O come, sweet justice come.

When will we learn how to see them, each one a child of God?
When will our voices raise for them, demand their stories heard.
Do we wait until all hope is gone, their songs to die away?
With passion we must rise up, risk in the name of God.

O come, O come, sweet justice come.

O come, O come, sweet justice come.

Please be seated.

Second Reading Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-17

- ¹² Wisdom shines brightly and never fades.
She is seen by those who love Her
and is found by those who seek Her.
- ¹³ She reveals herself
to all who desire to know Her,
- ¹⁴ and those who rise early to search for Her
will not grow weary of the journey,
for they will find Her seated at the door of their own homes.
- ¹⁵ To ponder Her is the fullness of Wisdom
And to be loyal in Her pursuit
is the shortcut to freedom from care.
- ¹⁶ She searches the far ends of the earth
for those who are worthy of Her,
and She appears to them on their daily path with kindness,
meeting them halfway in all their journeys.
- ¹⁷ The true meaning of Wisdom is the desire to learn, and to be passionate about
learning is to love Her.

Anthem “Deep Peace”
by David N. Davenport

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."

Choral Blessing "The Peace of God" Adapted from Philippians 4:7-8
Music by Douglas Wagner

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "A Quiet Thing" from Flora the Red Menace
Lyrics by Fred Ebb, Music by John Kander



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.

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Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at
www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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