



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
January 7, 2024; Epiphany Sunday
Communion Sunday



Meditation

I Wake Close to Morning
by Mary Oliver

Why do people keep asking to see
God's identity papers
when the darkness opening into morning
is more than enough?
Certainly any god might turn away in disgust.
Think of Sheba approaching
the kingdom of Solomon.
Do you think she had to ask,
"Is this the place?"

Yes, this is the place, friends, "Welcome!"

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Music by Leigh Harline, Lyrics by Ned Washington

Trumpet soloist, James Cesare

Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

Arise friends, yes please arise or remain seated as we welcome this Day of Epiphany, manifestation and appearance of God's Love for all.

Arise, for light has come and the glory of God has risen upon us. The thick darkness of night is lifting as God's glory appears around us!

All peoples shall come to this light, as the dawn breaks and brightness returns anew.

Lift up your eyes, look around you. We are here!
And we begin, again, today with the gifts of our heart for all. Let the news be heard everywhere:
Jesus Christ is born!

Chancel Choir "Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come"

Music by Allen Pote

Baptism of

Rome Luca Minerbo, Born June 2, 2023

Kendall A. Connors and Carmine A. Minerbo, Parents

Nicole L. Connors, Justin W. Connors, and Michael V. Toro, Godparents

Hymn Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
 New Century Hymnal #325

Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.

Unison Prayer (Based on Isaiah 43:1-7)

The God who breathed this world alive
And sustains it day by day
Whose hands flung stars into space
And controls our destiny
Says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you."
The God who filled the ocean depths
And set tides on their way
Who caused mountains to be raised up
And rainbows to display
Says, "I have called you by name, you are mine."
The God who made the fertile earth
And seed within to sow
Whose artistry creates butterflies
And the early morning dew
Says, "You are precious in my sight."

Chancel Choir "There's a Star" from *Emmanuel*
by Dorothy Davidson Hauske

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer & Assurance of God's Love

Prayer of Jesus

Passing of the Peace of Christ

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod’s rule—a band of wise scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah predicted it to be so. Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

Homily

Communion Hymns:

"Come to the Table"	Sing! Prayer and Praise	#112
"Let Us Break Bread Together"	New Century Hymnal	#330

A Quiet Moment of Thanksgiving

Church Covenant

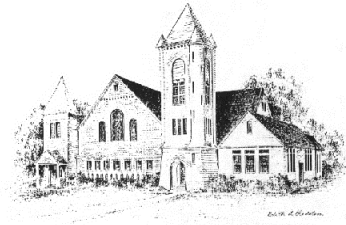
In response to God's love,
we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demands
and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other
with love and concern
in our worship and witness;
to reach out with the courage
of our convictions
in the cause of justice,
liberation, and equality for all.
In this, we covenant to keep the
ultimate promise: "I care, I am with you."

Benediction

Choral Blessing "May the Road" Traditional Irish blessing
Arranged by James Ahrend

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "Londonderry Air" Traditional Irish tune



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.

Thank you!

Jenna Murphy, Liturgist

Music Director Sean Cameron and The Chancel Choir

Trumpet Soloist, James Cesare

Michael Hoff, Usher

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,

Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

And all of you!

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782-3101

631-589-1519; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

www.sayvilleucc.org; www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc

Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor ray@sayvilleucc.org 631-827-8611 (Cell/Text)

Today's Service is simulcast www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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

Announcements

Poinsettias

Please help find a home for these beautiful plants that have graced our sanctuary throughout Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany. You are welcome to take home as many plants as you wish following worship. Special thanks to Patricia Mahar and Roger Kauffman for maintaining and caring for all these plants. They are now ready for you!

Sunday School Class

Today at 10:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday in January. Flyers available in the rear of the sanctuary. All welcome!

Robert Pierce Celebration of Life Saturday, January 13th at 10:30 A.M.

Please join Robert's family and friends in remembering this dear friend and leader of ours. Hospitality to follow – see Connie Kauffman and Karen Maust to lend a hand. Also, please share in writing any memories of Robert you wish to share to Ray by Wednesday. We are preparing a memorial packet that will be available at the service. Sorry, we are unable to ensure that submissions received after Wednesday will be included.

Rebel Readers Roundtable

1984 by George Orwell. Next gathering on Monday, January 22nd at 7:00 P.M. in the Vestry. Please join us.

Prayer Lists; Joys and Concerns – eChimes Newsletter

If you would like to have prayer requests or joys added to our eChimes Newsletter, please send the information to Heather by Monday 4 P.M. We will gladly include your petitions. Mail to: churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

Announcements for Sundays

In the future, if you wish to have announcements included in print for Sunday worship, please send them to Heather by Noon on Fridays. We will also have a brief time for announcements from the floor each Sunday. Mail to: churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org