



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2024

Welcome            Announcements

Ring the Bell

Prelude            "Thumbnail Sketches of A Day in the Life of a  
Washerwoman"            by Florence B. Price

Call to Worship

(Please rise or be seated, as you wish, joining with us in response.)

*It's more than words.*

*It's all about the orator's heart.*

*"We shall overcome" is rooted deeply  
in our faith and our history and our future  
which are one.*

*Here, we hold our place, open our hearts  
and extend our hands.*

*It is from here we enter the world.*

Hymn      “In the Midst of New Dimensions”  
New Century Hymnal # 391      Verses 1, 3, 5

In the midst of new dimensions,  
in the face of changing ways,  
who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people ours the journey,  
now and ever, now and ever  
now and ever more.

As we stand a world divided  
by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village,  
might envision wider dreams.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people ours the journey,  
now and ever, now and ever  
now and ever more.

Should the threats of dire predictions  
cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit  
resurrect the church again.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people ours the journey,  
now and ever, now and ever  
now and ever more.

(Please be seated.)

## Unison Prayer

God, you have searched us and know us  
better than we know ourselves.  
Even before a word is spoken  
you know what it will be.  
And you let us speak anyway.  
You knew us before we were born  
Know us now, and in all to come.

The thoughts of you overwhelm us,  
not sending us away  
but drawing us closer.  
Be with us now,  
as we and this nation and the world  
and your knowledge of us all  
guide us in the ways of your will.

Together in this and more, we pray.

The Chancel Choir

"Dealing With Differences"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

(Please rise or be seated, as you wish.)

Passing of the Peace

Friends, welcome to this place of prayer and praise; light and  
love, blessings and benediction! With all this and more in mind,  
we greet one another with the Peace of Christ:

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of this Peace.

(Please be seated.)

## Joys, Concerns and Concerns

We take this time now to share our Joys and Concern with one another. Please wait for the microphone so that all those here and home can hear you... all to hear...

## Pastoral Prayer and Assurance

### The Prayer of Jesus 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

“We Are Not Alone”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #130

We are not alone. We live in God’s world.  
We are not alone. We live in God’s world.  
We are called to the church to celebrate God’s presence,  
to love and serve all.

We are not alone. We live in God’s world.  
We are not alone. We live in God’s world.  
We are called to seek out justice,  
to proclaim Christ, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
We are not alone. We are not alone. We are not alone.

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of John

Chapter 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, “Come, follow me.”

Philip went and found Nathanael and told him. “We’ve found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It’s Jesus, Joseph’s son, the one from Nazareth!” Nathanael said, “Nazareth? You’ve got to be kidding.”

But Philip said, “Come, see for yourself.” When Jesus saw him coming, he said, “There’s a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body.”

Nathanael said, “Where did you get that idea? You don’t know me.” Jesus answered, “One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree.”

Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!” Jesus said, “You’ve become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven’t seen anything yet!

Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."

The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't tell a soul what you saw. After the One of Humanity rises from the dead, you're free to talk." They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth "rising from the dead" meant.

The Chancel Choir      "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"  
Hymn tune by George N. Allen, Text by Joyce Merman  
Arranged by Roy Ringwald

Homily

"Church Covenant"

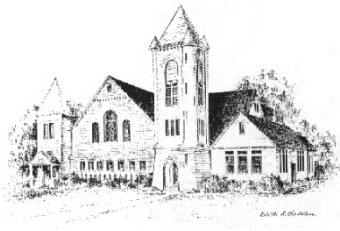
In response to God's love, we covenant with each other...  
to be faithful to the demand and inspiration of the eternal spirit,  
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;  
to accept and respect each other with love and concern  
in our worship and witness.;  
to reach out with the courage of our convictions  
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      "Go Now In Peace"  
Music by Don Besig, Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude              "Lift Every Voice and Sing"      Music by John Rosamond Johnson  
Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson



### ***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. Merry Christmas.

Today's Worship Leadership

Liturgist – Bill Houghtalen

Music Director – Sean Cameron

Usher – Michael Hoff

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad,  
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

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

Tonight's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at

[www.echimestv.org](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

*Thank you for being with us today.*

*Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.*

*"Namaste"*