



## The Second Sunday of Lent



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

February 25, 2024

Welcome

Announcements

Ring the Bell

Prelude

“Hymn to Freedom” by Oscar Peterson

Call to Worship                      by Gill Le Fevre

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

As darkness gives way to light  
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,  
We come today to be reminded  
   of God's love for us.  
Like the green shoots of renewed life,  
stirring beneath the soil,  
We welcome an awakening  
   of God's word in our lives.  
In this time of reflection  
   and repentance,  
We affirm our identity,  
   we claim our security,  
   as children of God.

Let us worship in Love together.

Hymn                      “We Are All God’s Chosen People”      Sing! Prayer and Praise #115

We are all God’s chosen people,  
children of a perfect Love.  
O yes, there’s no one less no one greater.  
We are all God’s chosen ones.

(Repeat)

We are all God’s chosen people,  
children of a perfect Love.  
O yes, there’s no one less no one greater.  
We are all God’s chosen ones.

(Please be seated)

Unison Prayer      Prompted by Psalm 121:3-8

God has never – will never – desert us.  
God Emmanuel, with us, around us, always.  
We are inseparable from the love of God.  
We are inseparably and eternally connected to one another;  
love being our common bond and God’s delight in us  
-- inextinguishable.

(Please rise if you wish and join with us in singing.)

Hymn      “By Whatever Name We Call You”      New Century Hymnal #560

By whatever name, we call you Fashioner of spheres,  
You are grander, so much wiser than our minds perceived.  
Labels limit understanding, God, you have no peers  
so, we question – changing, growing – wanting to believe.

In whatever way we worship, Mystery, divine,  
You are only dimly known through ritual and creed.  
Though we try to capture you in symbol or sign,  
Only as we let you be, can longing hearts be freed.

In whatever gifts we offer, All Inclusive One,  
you accept your own creation, fragments, we return.  
Not as owners, but as stewards is our giving done.  
In true wonder we receive the love we cannot earn.

(Please remain as you are for the Passing of the Peace.)

## Passing of the Peace

Friends, we are blessed as the life of peace in the world;  
communities like ours sowing love, pardon, faith,  
    hope, light and joy,  
even in the midst of trials and change.

We seek *the peace* that calls us to console, to understand.

We reach out to help others discovering a heart  
    where their treasure lies.

This is the Peace of Christ that Jesus promised is ours to share;  
    we are the beacons of its presence for all...

With that and so much more...

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.)

The Chancel Choir      "How Lovely Are the Messengers" by Felix Mendelssohn

Joys, Concerns and Celebrations...

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

Pastoral Prayer and Assurance

Ours is a bright and amazing God, risen all around us in light and love,  
splendor and delight. *This* God fills the universe with sparkling and a glittering  
presence; believing in us to share the Good News in all the ways it may be  
spoken; the *News* that "We Are Loved" by *this* bright and amazing God who  
delights in us!



First Reading

From The Sonnets of Orpheus; "First Part I"

by Rainer Maria Rilke

A tree ascended there. Oh pure transcendence!  
Oh, Orpheus sings! Oh, tall tree in the ear!  
And all things hushed. Yet even in that silence,  
a new beginning, beckoning, change appeared.

Creatures of stillness crowded from the bright,  
unbound forest, out of the lairs and nests;  
and it was not from any dullness, not  
from fear, that they were so quiet in themselves,

but from just listening. Bellow, roar, shriek,  
seemed small inside their hearts. And where there had been  
at most a makeshift hut to receive the music,

A shelter nailed up out of their darkest,  
longing, with an entryway that shuttered in the wind —  
you built a temple deep inside their hearing.

The Chancel Choir

"There Shall a Star" by Felix Mendelssohn

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around, and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded, Peter: "Get out of my sight, you tempter! You are judging by human standards, rather than by God's!"

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross, and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you’ll lose it, but if you lose your life, for my sake, you’ll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me, and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One, and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory.”

Congregational Voice

Roger Kauffman

“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”

Lyrics by Don Besig and Nancy Price

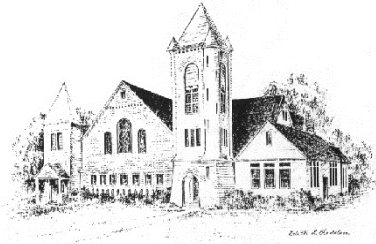
Music by Don Besig

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude

“What If I Told You”

Words and Music by Gabriel Kahane



### ***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

Congregational Voice – Roger Kauffman

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Music Director – Sean Cameron

Ushers –Sue Lanchantin

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

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor

Today'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”*