



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2024



Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude “Prelude in C Major” BWV 846, by J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

(From Mary Oliver: *Where does the temple begin, where does it end?*)

There are things you can't reach. But
you can reach out to them, and all day long.
The wind, the bird flying away. The idea of God.
And it can keep you as busy as anything else, and happier.
Come, let us “reach out” to what we can and cannot reach...
Together in prayer and praise and song...
[And know how we are loved...]

Please rise in body or spirit and join us in singing our opening hymn.

Hymn "O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns" New Century Hymnal #212

Oh, Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising,
in every city for your love and care;
Inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
that your blessed spirit rouses everywhere.

Grant us new courage, never proud, but humble,
strong in your strength to venture, and to dare;
To lift the fallen, guide, the ones who stumble,
seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.

Show us your spirit, brooding o'er each city,
as you once wept above Jerusalem,
Seeking to gather all in love and pity,
and healing those who touch your garment's hem.

Please be seated.

Unison Prayer

In this season of Lent, we consider how we live as followers of Jesus. We look at our lives in the reflections of his days on earth and these days of Jesus's being with us now. What are we called to in such thoughts?

Above all, just as Jesus assured his disciples, we too are assured that we are not alone. So, we embrace the healing of God's love for us and the empowering of our love for others. And on these things we reflect in a moment of silence...

(Silent Prayer for One Minute)

Please join together in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

Let our sorrows be lifted into God's care,
Let our joys and grateful expressions
Be known, here, in God's presence,
All around us, now.
Around -- all of us -- always.

Chancel Choir "Forgiveness and Love" by James Ahrend

Passing of the Peace

Friends, we seek *the peace* that calls us to console and to understand;
To forgive, slowly if needed, as best we can...

Please rise for the Passing of 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, Celebrations and Concerns

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

Please respond with "God, hear our prayers."

Pastoral Prayer & Assurance of God's Love

Gracious, Creator, Sparkling God...we know your great love shines on all peoples and all of creation. We know that you delight in us, absolutely delight in us...and that you are with us every step of the way. As we move on our paths, in all the ways they may unfold, help us to do so with this certainty of your love and presence.

Please rise in body or spirit

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!
The way of your justice
 [may it] be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will [may it] be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
 [may it] sustain our hope and come on earth.

[And so we pray]

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.

Please be seated.

Hymn “Like a Healing Stream” Sing! Prayer and Praise #73

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding
promising revival and rebirth like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea,
 like a river strong,
 like a gentle rain,
 like a healing stream.

First Reading Isaiah 11:6-9 - The Message

⁶⁻⁹The wolf will romp with the lamb,

the leopard sleep with the kid.

Calf and lion will eat from the same trough,

and a little child will tend them.

Cow and bear will graze the same pasture,

their calves and cubs grow up together,

and the lion eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens,

the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent.

Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill

on my holy mountain.

The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive,

a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

The Chancel Choir “There Shall a Star” by Felix Mendelssohn

Gospel Reading Galatians 5:22-23 (New Revised Standard Version)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Homily “Roger Williams, Toleration, and Knowing Your Neighbors”
Peter Maust, Congregational Voice

Church Covenant

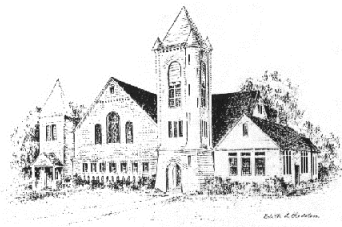
In response to God's love,
we covenant with each other
to be faithful to the demands
and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other
with love and concern
in our worship and witness;
to reach out with the courage
of our convictions in the 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 "Lion and Lamb" from *Emmanuel* by Dorothy Davidson Hauske

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "When the Ship Comes In" by Bob Dylan



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For 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, we celebrate God's love, by 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.

Today's Worship Leadership

Congregational Voice – Peter Maust

Liturgist -- Bill Houghtalen

Music Director – Sean Cameron

Usher – Sue Lanchantin

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

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

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

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"