



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024



Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Morning has Broken" arr. Marilyn Ham

Call to Worship Prompted by "Standing in Our Own Light"
By Joseph H. Gilmore

Most welcoming God:
hold thy laughter
yet a little while,
as we come to you in new ways...

as we learn even more of the
"Everywhere ways"
you are and can be found,
As we embrace your joy
in unexpected manners...
to navigate the unsettling and the sorrow.

Remind us of your richness and grace
in the neighborhoods that know no bounds;
and the self where we already are,
filled with your light – our own –
here to share and pray and worship together.

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 “Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

New Century Hymnal #89

Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with diamond’s dew; The worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Fount of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.

Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, God’s gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze.

To give and give, and give again, as God’s own grace is free;
To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Please be seated.

Please join together in praying this morning's Unison Prayer

Adapted from by "The Half We Need"

by Joseph H. Gilmore

Most surprising God:
who can ever know why,
(once upon a time),

Weary of darkling silence
you revealed yourself
in fire and wind?

At the farthest,
retreating edge of the universe,
the echo of your first word
can still be heard:
"Let there be!"

In the most ancient of ways,
come though again.
Come leaping upon us.
Call up the fire in us,

Dormant embers
in some far corner of the heart;

for brightness and heat
trail thee
now as ever,

and we *need* these
as surely as earth
needs the flaming sun
if there is to be
Morning.

Come blowing against us,
over us,
huge, hopeful wind,
untamable and sacred
spirit. Come.

Chancel Choir

"Prayer of Saint Patrick"

by John Rutter

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

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 for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn “Spirit of Gentleness” New Century Hymnal #286 vs. 1, 4

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our people see visions, our kin clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

First Reading Daniel 10:3-12a

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer (salah), reflection, and community. It began last week on March 10th and continues through April 9th. We offer this passage from the Book of Daniel with respect for our Muslim kin as they continue in this solemn time of fasting and prayer, as we continue in this time of Lent.

During that time, I Daniel, had been mourning for three weeks. I refused to eat fine foods and tasted no meat or wine – and didn't even bathe – until three weeks had passed. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, I was standing on the banks of the Tigris and saw a person who was clothed in linen and wearing a belt of the finest gold from Ophir, whose body glowed like topaz and whose face shone like lightning, whose eyes were like flames and whose arms and feet gleamed like polished bronze, and whose single voice was like that of a multitude. I alone saw the vision. Those around me didn't see it, but they grew so fearful they ran away and hid. I was left alone to gaze at this great vision, and all my strength left me, and I became deathly pale. When I heard the sound of the voice, I fell down on the ground and lost consciousness.

Then I felt a hand touch me, and I was lifted on my hands and knees. The voice said, "Daniel, greatly beloved of God, listen to what I say to you and stand tall before me, for I was sent to you." When I heard these words, I stood up and trembled in fear. The voice went on, "Don't be afraid, Daniel."

The Chancel Choir "Sing A New Song" by Michael Haydn

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me,
all you who labor and carry heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon your shoulders
and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart.
Here you will find rest for your souls,
for my yoke is easy
and my burden is light.”

Homily

“The Nature of the Divine”

Hank 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

“May The Road”

by James Ahrend

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Victor Labenske



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 – Hank Maust

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Guest Music Director – Elizabeth Leddy

Ushers – Sue Lanchantin and Michael Hoff

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”



2024 Easter Plants

This Easter season I would like to place
flowers on the Chancel.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Donor Names to be listed in the Easter Bulletin

Name: _____

Contact Telephone (*not* listed in bulletin): _____

____ I would like to give my Easter plant to someone
unable to attend services at this time.

____ I will pick my plant up after Easter Sunday.

Please send (or bring) this
form and your donation to:

Sayville Congregational Church
131 Middle Road Sayville, NY 11782

***All orders must be received by
Monday, March 25th.***

