



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
April 21, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Lieder ohne Worte (Songs Without Words)"  
Op. 30, No. 3, by Felix Mendelssohn

*Please rise or remain seated, as you wish.*

Call to Worship

We are the loving, expansive Presence of God.

In this Presence,  
we carry God's love—  
sometimes better than we know,  
even when (perhaps especially, so) we are still.

Come, One and All, and "be" together this morning  
As we lift our voices and hearts  
in song, and worship and prayer.

Please remain as you are and join with us in singing our opening hymn.

Hymn      "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"      NCH#293

There's a sweet, sweet, Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive  
till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;  
you're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way,"

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.

Please be seated and share in the reading our Unison Prayer

Unison Prayer "Gather the Hearts" by Joseph H. Gilmore

Gather to thyself  
into thy quieting, softening Presence,  
all those who have been  
Hounded into closets  
Where (in fear and trembling)  
they hide  
from us  
and from themselves  
and from You.  
Gather into one place of light and peace,  
the hearts of us all,  
that our seasons of ignorance and hatred  
might end  
at last.

Gather us around  
a gospel  
which forgives in the twinkling of an eye,  
loves in and out of season,  
hopes whether the winds are favorable or not,  
refuses injustice at every turn.

Gather us around the prayer  
for a kin-dom in our midst.

Assurance of God's Love

The Chancel Choir Anthem "Brother James's Air" Psalm 23  
Arranged by Gordon Jacobs

Friends, please rise.

Passing of the Peace

Filled with this joy of togetherness, we share the Peace of Jesus Christ; may it find its way into the hearts of all around the world... Friends, with this in our hearts...

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace!

Please be seated.

Sacred Text Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>YHWH, you are my shepherd— I want nothing more.

<sup>2</sup>You let me lie down in green meadows;  
you lead me beside restful waters:

<sup>3</sup>you refresh my soul.

You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name.

<sup>4</sup> Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,  
I fear no danger, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff— they give me courage.

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,  
and you anoint my head with oil— my cup overflows!

<sup>6</sup> Only goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house,  
YHWH, for days without end.

Gospel John 10: 11-18

<sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd would die for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf.

<sup>13</sup>That's because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd.

I know my sheep and my sheep know me,

<sup>15</sup>in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God— and for these sheep I will lay down my life.

<sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that don't belong to this fold— I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice.

And then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup>This is why Abba God loves me— because I lay down my life, only to take it up again.

<sup>18</sup>No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely.

I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from my Abba."

Reflection                      Rev. Dr. Jane Ann Groom

Choral Anthem                "See What Love"  
  *from the oratorio "Saint Paul"*  
  by Felix Mendelssohn

Joys, Celebrations 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 at home can hear you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of our Savior

Reception of New Members

*Please rise in spirit or body and join in singing.*

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."

Invitation to Give

We welcome your offerings at this time and invite you to place your prayer and information cards in the plate as we sing "What a Covenant" #471 in the New Century Hymnal.





## **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

Thank you!

Rev. Dr. Jane Ann Groom, Guest Preacher

Randolf Pearson, Liturgist

Ushers -Judie & Mike Jane, Gini McLaughlin & Jerry Avolio

Hospitality - Karen & Hank Maust and Hilda Baeza

Music Director Sean Cameron and The Chancel Choir

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham

Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

And all of you!

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator

Gail Kieser, eChimes Editor

Today's Service is simulcast [www.echimestv.org](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

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

“Namaste”