



*Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
April 28, 2024*

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Then Shall the Righteous Shine"
 from the oratorio "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn
 Robert Acker, tenor soloist

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish.

Call to Worship A variation on Micah 6:8

"What shall I bring when I come before Yhwh..." you ask.

"Am I to come before God with burnt offerings with year-old calves?
Will YHWH be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers
of oil?

Should I offer [these things and more] for my wrongdoings...?

"Listen here, mortal: God has already made it abundantly clear
what "good" is, and what Yhwh needs from you: simply,
do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God."

And so we do, one day at a time.

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

Hymn

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

NCH #563

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night
and, weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.

Please be seated and share in the reading our Unison Prayer

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, teach us not to think of ourselves more highly than we should. Help us to overcome the impulse to put ourselves forward at the expense of others.

Grant that we may never boast of ourselves, as though we had labored alone without your help – and you through others.

Make us eager to be there for others when we can; to delight in service as we are able; to discover more often the joy and freedom in learning more about just what it is: *to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.*

Assurance of God's Love

Friends, in the Presence of God in all the ways we know God, know how much you are loved.

Friends, please rise.

Passing of the Peace

As we rise for the passing of that Word of Joy, the Word of Peace of the Risen Christ in the

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.

The Chancel Choir Anthem "The Beatitudes"
Music by Arthur Foote

Joys, Celebrations and Concerns

Friends, we now invite you to share your Joys, Celebrations and Concerns. Please wait for the microphone and respond with:

"God, hear our prayers."

Please remain seated and join us in praying the Prayer of Jesus.

The Prayer of Jesus

Creator God who is in heaven
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Forgive us our trespasses, as
We forgive others who trespass against us.
And, lead us not into temptation
But deliver us more closely to you.
Amen.

Please rise and join in singing...

Hymn "Deep Within Our Hearts" #124 SPP

There's a song deep within our hearts
There's a light burning in our souls
And a path in the darkness lit from above
God help us sing your song,
Spirit to shine your light,
Jesus to live your love.

There's a song deep within our hearts
There's a light burning in our souls
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God help us sing your song,
Spirit to shine your light,
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Friends, please be seated.

²⁶ An angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road." ²⁷ So Philip began his journey.

It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage ²⁸ and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ The Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and meet that carriage."

³⁰ When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ "How can I," the eunuch replied, "unless someone explains it to me?" With that, he invited Philip to get in the carriage with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture being read:

"You are like a sheep being led to slaughter,
you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers:
like them, you never open your mouth.
³³ You have been humiliated
and have no one to defend you.
Who will ever talk about your descendants,
since your life on earth has been cut short?"

³⁴ The eunuch said to Philip, "Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking—himself or someone else?"

³⁵ So Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him.

³⁶ Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?"

³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop; then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn't see him anymore and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ Philip found himself at Ashdod next, and he went about proclaiming the Good News in all the towns, until he came to Caesarea.

The Chancel Choir Anthem “If With All Your Hearts”
 from the oratorio “Elijah” by Felix Mendelssohn
 Robert Acker, tenor soloist

Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

- ¹ “I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower ² who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield.
- ³ You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.
- ⁴ Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me.
- ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- ⁶ Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned.
- ⁷ If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.
- ⁸ My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

Congregational Voice

Carl MacGowan

Musical Response

“Just For Today”
by Sybil F. Partridge
and Blanche Ebert Seaver

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 our 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."

Please be seated.

Benediction

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer"
by Don Besig

The Bell is Rung

Postlude "Lieder ohne Worte (Songs Without Words)"
Op. 43, No. 4
by Felix Mendelssohn



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, Carl MacGowan
The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director
Tenor Soloist – Robert Acker
Liturgist – Kim Thompsen
Ushers – Gail Acker, Kathy Leis, Mark Conrad, Michael Hoff
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham,
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust
And all of you!

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator
Gail Kieser, eChimes Editor

Today's Service is simulcast www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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