



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024 - Communion Sunday

Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Jesu, Joy of My Desiring" by J.S. Bach
James Cesare, trumpet soloist

(Please rise or remain seated if you wish and join us in this morning's Call to Worship)

Call to Worship *excerpt* from "The Prophet" by Kahil Gibran

"Then the gates of his heart were flung open, and his joy flew far over the sea. And he closed his eyes and prayed in the silences of his soul."

As if, indeed, the "heart was set aflame" from beyond all time...

Come, let us pray from our risen place, where the silences of our souls and the sound of our voices reveal this community of loving hearts. Welcome!

Hymn "Here in This Place" Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #5

Holy one may your presence here open our minds.
May your Spirit among us help us to find you are rising up now
like a fountain of grace from the holy ground, here in this place.
Here in this place. (Repeat)

(Please be seated.)

Unison Prayer

“While they were talking”
Jesus stood with them.

They didn’t know who he was,
so caught up in their world.
And then, in a word – Jesus’ words –
everything changed; a flame was lit.

We listen for “our word” – our flame.
Just as Mary heard hers, and
the travelers heard theirs
We listen for ours.

“The word” that changes everything.
A flame with that voice –
The One who knows the Silence – is not darkness --
And changes everything, forever.
Yes, that word: That flame.

Pay attention. Be amazed. Tell about it!

Assurance of God’s Love

Friends, in all silence there is a “world aflame with joy” – a world of a
community where everything it touches turns to joy!

It’s where the *emptiness* is lost, where even hands withdrawn are
warmed and warming.

It is Love. Presence. A presence and love that assures us – that God is
delighted in us. Feel this warmth, this warmth of God’s Delight and be assured
of it...

(Please rise if you wish.)

Passing of the Peace

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

"Sing We All Now Alleluia" by Christopher Wadsworth

Arranged by Walter Ehret

Joys and Concerns...

We take this time to share our Joys, Concerns, and Celebrations with one another.

Please wait for the microphone.

Prayer of Jesus (The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father, Mother, Guardian of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name

 echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed

by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

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 rise if you wish, and join us in singing:

Hymn "Come Sweet Justice" SPP #137

The world is hungry for justice, God's Word will point the way.
The One who came to speak the truth, to challenge those who say:
that we need not care for strangers, the sick, the lost, the poor,
the voiceless, the outcast, the honored guests of God.
O come, O come, sweet justice come.
O come, O come, sweet justice come.

When will we learn how to see them, each one a child of God?
When will our voices raise for them, demand their stories heard.
Do we wait until all hope is gone, their songs to die away?
With passion we must rise up, risk in the name of God.
O come, O come, sweet justice come.
O come, O come, sweet justice come.

(Please be seated.)

First Reading Acts 4:32-37

³² The community of believers was of one mind and one heart. None of them claimed anything as their own; rather, everything was held in common. ³³ The apostles continued to testify with great power to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they were all given great respect; ³⁴ nor was anyone needy among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them ³⁵ and give the money to the apostles. It was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

³⁶ There was a certain Levite from Cyprus named Joseph—to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas, which means "encourager." ³⁷ He sold a farm that he owned and made a donation of the money, presenting it to the apostles.

The Chancel Choir "There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob"
by Felix Mendelssohn

¹⁹ In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, ²¹ who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.”

²² After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

²⁴ It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!”

Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.”

²⁶ On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.”

²⁷ Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!”

²⁸ Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. ³¹ But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ Name.

Holy Communion

Invitation Prayer:

If we break bread, take bread and eat it, but do not become bread for others, for the world, what have we done?

In the grateful hands of Jesus, on that night before he died, the fields of God – cultivated, seeded, tended and harvested by a particular farmer – were not forgotten.

In the grateful hands of Jesus, the cup of wine called up all the glorious things earth and light and water can do.

And, on the night before he died, surrounded by those he loved and trusted, he surely remembered these things and more – yet to be known.

As he took the bread for that meal and the world, Jesus blessed it, gave it to those gathered and said:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then, after a while, seeing deeply into the cup he held, Jesus lifted the cup - the earth, its light, water and all creation saying:

“This cup is the new covenant that courses through my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

In so doing, Jesus glorified God’s Love through his. As we come to this table – the same one, really – may we do the same.

Communion Hymns

Let Us Break Bread Together NCH #330

As We Gather at Your Table NCH #332

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Church Covenant

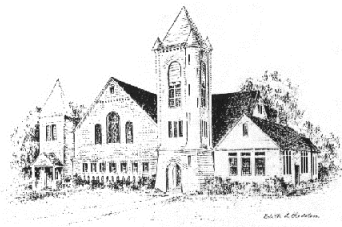
In response to God's love,
we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demands
and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other
with love and concern
in our worship and witness;
to reach out with the courage
of our convictions
in 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 "Go Now In Peace" by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Lieder ohne Worte (Songs Without Words)" Op. 19, No. 1
by Felix Mendelssohn



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more 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, celebrate God's love, however you may know God, by our 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.

Thank you!

Rev. Barbara Toll, Guest Preacher
Music Director Sean Cameron and The Chancel Choir
James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist
Jenna Murphy, Liturgist
Sue Lanchantin and Michael Hoff, Ushers
Christine Hoff, Hospitality Set-up

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; 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”