



Third Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
April 14, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Song Without Words" Op. 19, No. 2
by Felix Mendelssohn

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish and join in praying together:

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 "The Day of Resurrection" New Century Hymnal #245

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

Please be seated and join us in reading this morning's 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 kindom in our midst.

Assurance of God's Love

Now, please rise as we pass the Joy and Peace of the Risen Christ

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!

Friends, please be seated.

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

Please remain seated.

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, this morning from
The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book*

The Prayer of Jesus

Eternal Spirit, Earthmaker, Painbearer, Lifegiver,
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 and join in singing...

Hymn

“Shadow and Substance”

NCH #398

Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,
spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;
Soul of the cosmos, person and energy,
source of our being: we sing of your worth.

We are your image, formed in community;
sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.
You gave us color, custom and history;
teach us to honor what others receive.

Naming the nameless Spirit of unity,
scanning the heavens for signs of your care;
God of the ages, give us humility;
guide us to mystical union in prayer.

Friends, please be seated.

First Reading

Psalm 133 *A Song of Ascents, by David*

¹ See how good, how pleasant it is
For God’s people to live together as one!
²It is like precious oil on Aaron’s head
Running down on his beard,
Running down to the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.
For that is where YHWH bestows the blessing –
life that never ends.

The Chancel Choir

"How Lovely Are the Messengers" from St. Paul
by Felix Mendelssohn
Arranged by William Stickles

Gospel Reading John 10:11-18

¹¹ I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd would die for the sheep.

¹² 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.

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

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd.

I know my sheep and my sheep know me,

¹⁵ in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God—

and for these sheep I will lay down my life.

¹⁶ 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.

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

¹⁸ 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.”

Sermon

Rev. Rebecca West

Benediction

Church Covenant

Friends, with these words and the world that is warmed by our blend of Justice and Love and more, please rise and join in singing 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.

Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer"

Words and Music by Don Besig

The Bell is Rung

Postlude

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Arr. Marilynn Ham



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. Rebecca West, Guest Preacher

Guest Music Director Elizabeth Leddy and The Chancel Choir

Mariana Torres, Liturgist

Sue Lanchantin and Michael Hoff, Ushers

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

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 117823101

6315891519; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

www.sayvilleucc.org; www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc

Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; Gail Kieser, eChimes Editor

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

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