



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
5th Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025



Welcome

Ring the Bell

Prelude Prelude for Organ, No. 55
by C.H. Rinck

Call to Worship

(from *Standing in Our Own Light*, Joseph H. Gilmore)

Most welcoming God:
hold thy laughter yet a little while,
long enough for us to learn
the richness and the grace
in the neighborhood
(and the self)
where we already are,
in our own light
here to pray. To you. Together.

Hymn "Lift High the Cross" NCH #198

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God.

Refrain

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain

Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.

Refrain

Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease,
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain

Please be seated and join in reading this morning's Unison Prayer.

Unison Prayer

(Adapted from *The Half We Need*, 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 thou 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.

Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

Friends, please rise if you wish.

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.

The Chancel Choir "We Shall Overcome"
Words and Adaption by Zilphia Horton,
Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger
Arranged by Roy Ringwald

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."

The Prayer of Jesus from The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

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

O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Gospel Reading John 12:1-8

Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.

Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them.

Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honoring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me."

The Chancel Choir "Dealing With Differences"
Words and Music by James Ahrend

Message

Hank Maust, Trustee Chair

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.

Church Covenant

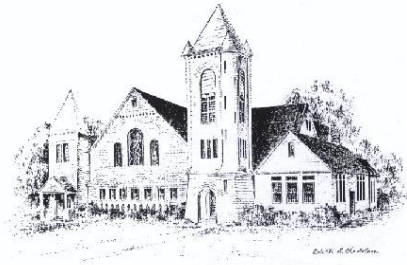
In response to God's love,
we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demands
and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other
with love and concern
in our worship and witness;
to reach out with the courage
of our convictions
in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

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "aqua"
by Ryuichi Sakamoto



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more than a century and a half, Sayville 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.

Thank You, Worship Leadership!

Hank Maust, Trustee Chair

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Jenna Murphy

Ushers – Linda Brookshire, Gail Acker,

Roberta Smith and Bill Johnson

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham,
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator

Gail Kieser, eChimes Editor

Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at
www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

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