



Second Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
April 27, 2025

Welcome

Ring the Bell

Prelude Prelude for Organ, No. 85
 "Gott des Himmels und der Erden" by C. H. Rinck

Call to Worship from "The Prophet" by Kahil Gibran

"Almustafa, the chosen and the beloved, who was a dawn unto his own day, had waited twelve years in the city of Orphalese for his ship that was to return and bear him back to the isle of his birth.

"And in the twelfth year, on the seventh day of Lelool, the month of reaping, he climbed the hill without the city walls and looked seaward; and he beheld his ship coming with the mist.

"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."

Come, let us pray from the silences of our souls and the sound of our voices, shared in this community of loving hearts.

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

Unison Prayer

"While they were talking..."
on their way to Emmaus
Jesus stood with them.
They didn't know who he was,
so caught up in their loss and grief.
And then, in a word – Jesus' words –
everything changed.

We seek your word.
The word for us.
The word that changes everything.
With that word and our voice,
more than we know
is set into motion
and, yes, the world changes –
everything changes.

With just a word.

Assurance of God's Love

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"
Music by John Rutter

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

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.

Reading: The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Revelations) 1:4-8

From John to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you, from the One who is, who was, and who is to come, from the seven spirits before the throne and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the Firstborn from the dead, sovereign of the rulers of the earth. To Christ—who loves us, and who has freed us from our sins by the shedding of blood, and who has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Creator—to Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen. Look! Christ is coming on the clouds for every eye to see, even those who pierced Jesus, and all the peoples of the earth will mourn over Christ. So be it! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says our God, “Who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

The Chancel Choir “Sing to the Earth”
Words and Music by James Ahrend

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31 (TIB)

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." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

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

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.
If you retain anyone sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas – nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"– was absent when Jesus came. 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."

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."

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!"

Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"
Jesus, then said,

"You've become a believer because you saw me.
Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed."

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

Mike Jayne

Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer"

Words and Music by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Let It Be"

Words and Music

by John Lennon and Paul McCartney



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!
Mike Jayne, Congregational Voice
Sean Cameron, Music Director
Liturgist – Kim Thompsen
Ushers – Roberta Smith, Roxy York and Stacey York

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

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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"