



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Communion Sunday
May 4, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude Prelude for Organ, No. 61 by C. H. Rinck

Please rise if you wish and join us in this morning's:

Responsive Call to Worship

We are ready, present –

We “stand” here, beside one another,
eagerly drawn to truth, love, and action.

We are always in the midst of God’s abundant love and
power.

**We open our hearts in community –
extending our hands as “one” to all those here
and in the world that surrounds us.**

So, come Friends, into the sacred space of affirmation
and grateful praise.

Please remain standing and join in singing this morning's hymn:

Hymn "Welcome to This House" Sing! Prayer and Praise #7

Welcome to this house,
open and affirming.
In God's Son we are all one.
Hand in hand we stand.
Welcome to this house,
caring and accepting.
In God's Son we are all one.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,
there is room for ev'ryone.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Let us all be one.
Welcome to this house,
where God gives the call to serve.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,
blessed by Word and Harmony.
Child of God, born from above.
Know that Christ is love.
Welcome to this house,
filled with peace and charity.
Child of God, born from above,
welcome to this house of God.

Please be seated and join us in reading this morning's:

Unison Prayer

A Shared Poem for Hopefulness

"For the Bird Singing Before Dawn" by Kim Stafford

Some people presume to be hopeful
when there is no evidence for hope,
to be happy when there is no cause.
Let me say now, I'm with them.

In deep darkness on a cold twig
in a dangerous world, one first
little fluff lets out a peep, a warble,
a song—and in a little while, behold:

the first glimmer comes, then a glow
filters through the misty trees,
then the bold sun rises, then
everyone starts bustling about.

And that first crazy optimist, can we
forgive her for thinking, dawn by dawn,
"Hey, I made that happen!
And oh, life is so fine."

[From the Author:

"Many times in my life I've been told by serious people that I must be very naïve to be happy, to have hope, to celebrate this little life I've been given when, actually, they say, everything is pretty dire. There's war, poverty, crushing injustice all over—what right do I have to talk back to all that with flimsy little poems about the good? What can I say? The birds are my teachers, my elders, my guides. Every day before dawn, in silence and darkness, I'm at my desk making poems on the page. And then, before light, I hear the first bird outside begin to sing." —Kim Stafford]

Assurance of God's Love & Abundant Grace

Friends, we are assured of God's presence and love simply by remembering it is so. This is God's grace, the promise of things unseen and the assurance that we are surrounded by such Grace.

Friends, please rise if you wish.

Hymn "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult" vs. 1, 3-5
New Century Hymnal #172

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

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.

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 – "The Lord's Prayer"

Creator God who is in heaven
Hallowed* be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

The Chancel Choir "Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord"
by Don Besig

Gospel Reading: John 21:12-19 (from The Inclusive Bible)

*"Come and eat your meal," Jesus told them.
None of the disciples dared to ask, "Who are you?" – They
knew it was the savior.*

*Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them,
and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time
that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised
from the dead.*

*When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon
Peter, "Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?"
Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I'm your friend."
Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

*A second time Jesus put the question, "Simon ben-John, do
you love me?"*

*Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I'm your friend."
Jesus replied, "Tend my sheep."*

*A third time Jesus asked him, "Simon ben-John, do you
love me as a friend would?"*

*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, "Do you love me?" a
third time. So he said, "You know everything, Rabbi. You
know that I am your friend."*

*Jesus said "Feed my sheep.
The truth of the matter is,
when you were young,
you put on your own belt.
and walked where you liked;
but when you get old,
you will stretch out your hands
and someone else will put a belt around you.
and take you where you don't want to go."*

*With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by
which Peter would glorify God.*

The Chancel Choir “Come As You Are To the Table”
by Dana Mengel

Holy Communion

The Invitation

God calls us to forgive, to build peace, and to share loving fellowship. Everyone may come to the table of reconciliation – which means all persons – all ages, cultures, sexual identities, abilities, religions, and diversities – those who affirm their elemental worth, and those who are yet to do so.

So come to this table, then, as you are.
Partake and share. It is spread for you and for me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God’s new age.

The Purpose

Long ago, God sought to commune with us, and by choosing to live with us embodied as Jesus, God experienced all the desires and temptations that we face in our daily living as human beings.

Jesus, then, first showed us how to restrain those human desires and temptations; and in calling his disciples and followers, he revealed how to spread his way of love and peace in our wide and wonderful community here on Earth.

Presenting the Elements

To remind us of the union of body and spirit, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it to show how we often break our relationships with one another. Then, Jesus showed us the way to reconcile by asking us to share our bread with each other.

When we share this broken loaf, we become the body of Christ in the world. In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine, again gave thanks, and asked us to drink of the same spirit of loving kindness and harmony that filled him.

By sharing the cup of blessing, we become the new life of Christ in the world. What we symbolize here in this holy space, we justify by our service when we go forth from this place.

Holy Mystery, bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness, and catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with one another.

Invitation

In the spirit of Christ, let us share our spiritual journey through the blessings of Holy Communion.

Partaking of the Bread and Juice

Today we will serve the bread and cup by intinction.

Please come forward in the center aisles, break off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seats by the side aisles. A server will bring the bread and cup to those who choose to stay in their pews.

Communion Hymns

"Let Us Break Bread Together" NCH #330

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, hear our prayer. We thank you for inviting us to
this table where we have known the presence of Christ
and have received all of Christ's gifts.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and let us show forth our praise for you in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

Rev. Dr. Purnine

Choral Blessing "Communion Prayer" by Allen Pote

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
(Prayer of St. Francis)"
Words and Music by Sebastian Temple



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.

Thank You, Worship Leadership!
Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Guest Preacher
Sean Cameron, Music Director
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy
Ushers – Lorraine Severin, Sue Lanchantin,
Sarah Hartman and Lorraine Martin

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"