



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
May 18, 2025

Welcome

Ringling the Bell

Prelude "Sinfonia" from *Jephtha*
By George Frederick Handel

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish.

Call to Worship

There is power in attraction,
more so than promotion.

To be welcomed, affirmed, safe and loved
needs no campaign – just
the open hands and hearts
we extend to all.

Come, let us worship God
together, all.

Love and justice, peace and pow'r,
show us how to live each hour,
raise us up and set us free,
show us how to live and be.

Love and justice, peace and power,
challenge us to give each hour,
raise us up and set us free,
help us be all we can be.

Tell your neighbors, tell your friends,
here's a place hope never ends.
Love and justice, peace and power,
God is with us in this hour!
God is with us in this hour!
God is with us in this hour!

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

Unison Prayer

May all beings attain happiness.
May all beings be free from suffering.
May all beings never be separated from joy.
May all beings abide in equanimity, justice and love.

And be still for a moment...

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 "Dona Nobis Pacem"
Arranged by Hal Hopson

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.

Hymn "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NCH #391, vs 1, 3, 5

In the midst of new dimensions
in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrims peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams.

Reading: Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18

The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God. As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. “So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?” they said.

Peter then explained the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning:

“One day when I was in the town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came quite close to me. I watched it intently and saw in it all sorts of animals and wild beasts—everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. Then I heard a voice that said to me, ‘Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat.’ I replied, ‘I can’t, my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!’ And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, ‘Don’t call profane what God has made clean.’ This happened three times, then the sheet and what was in it was drawn up to heaven again.

“Just at that moment, three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them. These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius’ house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, ‘Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.’

“I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, and I remembered what Christ had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God’s way?’”

The Chancel Choir “Love Grows Here”
Words and Music by Don Besig

Message

Rev. Becky West

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. Becky West

Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer"

Words and Music by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Ashokan Farewell"

by Jay Ungar



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!

Rev. Becky West, Guest Preacher

James Higgins, Guest Music Director

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Ushers – Roxy York, Stacey York, Pat Mahar and Lorraine Severin

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"