



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday  
May 5, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude            "As Time Goes By"  
                         Music by Herman Hupfeld  
                         James Cesare, trumpet soloist

*Please rise or remain seated, as you wish.*

Call to Worship

Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us,  
So God's Spirit is ever present and around us.

**Come creator into our lives.  
We live and move and have our very being in you.  
Open now the windows of our souls. Amen.**

Please remain as you are and join us in singing our opening 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 share in the reading our Unison Prayer*

Unison Prayer

Ernesto Barros Cardoso, Brazil

God of Life,  
prepare our hands for a touch,  
a new and different touch.  
Prepare our hands for a touch,  
a touch of encounter  
a touch of awakening  
a touch of hope  
a touch of feeling.  
Many are the worn-out gestures,  
many are the movements frozen in time.  
Many are the useless excuses just to repeat attitudes...  
Give us daring  
to create new titles of community  
new links of affection,  
breaking away from old ways of relating,  
encouraging true, meaningful ways to move into closeness,  
together.  
Amen.

Baptism of Brithsy Torres

*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 remain as you are and join us in singing:*

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
I'll be there in case you wander off  
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God,  
to whom you now belong.  
Should you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

*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."**

Pastoral Prayer & Assurance of God's Love

The Prayer of Jesus

The Chancel Choir      “The Life I’ve Been Given”  
Words and Music by Rachel Allen, Arranged by Tim Coles

First Reading    Psalm 98

Sing a new song to YHWH,  
who has worked wonders,  
whose right hand and holy arm  
have brought deliverance!

YHWH has made salvation known  
and shown divine justice to the nations,  
and has remembered in truth and love  
the House of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Most High, all the earth,  
break into joy, songs of praise!

Sing praise to YHWH with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious singing!  
With trumpets and the blast of the shofar,  
raise a shout to YHWH, Ruler of All.

Let the sea, and all within it thunder;  
the world and all its peoples.  
Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy  
before YHWH, who comes to judge the earth,  
who will rule the world with justice  
and its peoples with equity.

The Chancel Choir      “Come As You Are To The Table”  
Words and Music by Dana Mengel

Gospel Reading      John 15: 9-15

<sup>9</sup> As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love. <sup>10</sup> And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God’s love and have kept God’s commandments. <sup>11</sup> I tell you all this that my joy may

be yours, and your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead, I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God.

Homily                      Rev. Dr. Rebecca West

### Holy Communion

If we break bread, take bread and eat it, but do not become bread for others, for the world, what have we done?

In the grateful hands of Jesus, on that night before he died, the fields of God – cultivated, seeded, tended and harvested by a particular farmer – were not forgotten.

In the grateful hands of Jesus, the cup of wine called up all the glorious things earth and light and water can do.

And, on the night before he died, surrounded by those he loved and trusted, he surely remembered these things and more – yet to be known.

As he took the bread for that meal and the world, Jesus blessed it, gave it to those gathered and said:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then, after a while, seeing deeply into the cup he held, Jesus lifted the cup - the earth, its light, water and all creation saying:

“This cup is the new covenant that courses through my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

In so doing, Jesus glorified God's Love through his. As we come to this table – the same one, really – may we do the same.

### Communion Hymns

Let Us Break Bread Together    NCH #330

As We Gather at Your Table    NCH #332

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We thank you for arms full of life, hearts full of hope, eyes full of wonder. We hold our hands open to receive those you send to us. Our feet are ready to dance with the world, teaching and learning as we go. With minds hungry for what you will reveal and knees willing to honor the mystery, we come to you – in these things and more – especially, in remembrance of you. 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. Rebecca West

Choral Blessing

"May The Road"

Music by James Ahrend

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"aqua"

by Ryuichi Sakamoto



## 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!  
Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Rebecca West  
The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director  
James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist  
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy  
Ushers – Karen Gunkel, Kay & Tom Wolf,  
Marie Mandell and Marion MacGowan  
Hospitality – Patricia Mahar  
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Kathi Leis, Mark Conrad  
Connie Kauffman, Hank Maust; Sue Lanchantin

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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](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

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