



*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*  
*May 12, 2024*

**Welcome**

**Ring of the Bell**

**Prelude**                   “mizu no naka no bagatelle”  
by Ryuichi Sakamoto

*Please rise or remain seated, as you wish and join in praying together:*

**Call to Worship**

Enter freely into this time and space of worship where Love and Justice converge in inspiring and powerful ways.

A time and space where we set aside our differences to embrace what has always bound us: an unwavering belief in God and God in us.

May we be open to worshipping in ways that always lift our hands and our voices for those who have no voice or agency.

Enter freely into this time of space and worship where the One who calls us together – brings us together, as well.

May it be so.

*Please remain as you are as we sing our opening hymn:*

**Hymn** "Like a Healing Stream" #73 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding  
promising revival and rebirth - like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation  
yearning for an end to want and need - like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel in a new direction  
calling for an end to hate and war - like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

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

**Unison Prayer**

Gracious and loving God, in the face of injustice and violence,  
grant us courage to stand firmly with You, knowing that Your  
presence strengthens and guides us; for you are our Advocate  
and Companion.

Let Your Spirit empower us, as it has faithful leaders before,  
making us instruments of change, unyielding in our pursuit of a  
world where justice flows like a mighty river, where we may  
find solace, hope and unwavering resolve.

May we be the vessels You seek for others in need.

## **Assurance of God's Love**

Friends, in the Presence of God in all the ways we know God, God delights in us all, as only a Creator may. Know how you are loved; and love in return.

*Now, please rise as we pass the Joy and Peace of the Risen Christ*

## **Passing of the Peace**

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace!*

*Friends, please be seated.*

**The Chancel Choir**      "Sing a New Song" by Michael Haydn  
Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

## **Joys 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**

*Please remain seated and join us in praying the **Prayer of Jesus**, as you learned to pray it...or as written here:*

## **Prayer of Jesus**

*Creator God who is in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Forgive us our trespasses, as  
We forgive others who trespass against us.  
And, lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us more closely to you. Amen.*

*Friends, please remain seated.*

**First Reading      Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

<sup>15</sup> One day Peter stood up in the midst of the believers, a gathering of perhaps a hundred and twenty. <sup>16</sup> “Sisters and brothers,” he said, “the saying in scripture, uttered long ago by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David, was destined to be fulfilled in Judas, the one who guided those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> He was one of our number and had been given a share in this ministry.

<sup>21</sup> “It is necessary, therefore, that one of those who accompanied us all the time that Jesus moved among us, <sup>22</sup> from the baptism of John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, should be named as witness with us to the Resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> At that, they nominated two—Joseph, called Barsabbas or Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “O God, you can read the hearts of people. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to occupy this apostolic ministry, replacing Judas, who turned away and went his own way.” <sup>26</sup> They then drew lots between the two. The choice fell to Matthias, who was added to the eleven apostles.

**The Chancel Choir**

“The Peace of God”

Adapted from Philippians 4:7-8

Music by Douglas Wagner

## **Gospel Reading    John 17:6-19**

<sup>6</sup> I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word.

<sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you've given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup> I am in the world no more, but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world. Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me with your Name— the Name that you gave me— that they may be one, even as we are one.

<sup>12</sup> As long as I was with them, I guarded them with your Name which you gave me. I kept careful watch, and not one of them was lost, except for the one who was destined to be lost in fulfillment of scripture.

<sup>13</sup> Now I am coming to you; I say all this while I am still in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I gave them your word, and the world has hated them for it because they don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

<sup>15</sup> I don't ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the Evil One. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, any more than I am of the world. <sup>17</sup> Consecrate them— make them holy through the truth— for your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world; <sup>19</sup> I consecrate myself now for their sakes, that they may be made holy in truth.

**Homily**                      Gail Kieser, Congregational Voice

**Hymn**        "There is a Balm in Gilead" #553 New Century Hymnal

*Refrain:*

*There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

*Refrain*

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

*Refrain*

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.

*Refrain*

## **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              "I Want to Go Home" from the musical *Big*  
Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.  
Music by David Shire



## ***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!

Gail Kieser, Congregational Voice

The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Connie Kauffman

Ushers – Jessica & Robert O'Donnell, Lorraine Martin,

Bill Johnson and Michael Hoff

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

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