



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
May 26, 2024



Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "America, the Beautiful"
Music by Samuel A. Ward
Arranged by John Carter

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14) © 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

O God our Guide and Helper, we come to worship you!

You stay beside us as we journey through life.

O God our Just and Holy One, we come to thank you!

You lead us in your path of justice and peace.

O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to praise you!

We know we can always rely on your promises.

O God, we gather to worship, praise and thank you.

Amen.

Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" NCH #277

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

Early in the morning

we praise your majesty.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,

Casting down their golden crowns

around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,

From the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,

Though the eyes of human kind

your glory may not see,

You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,

Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name

in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Unison Prayer A prayer written by Carol Penner, posted on Leading in Worship blog, inspired by Isaiah 55:1-3

God of our hearts...here we are!
We've come with thirsty hearts,
praying that your Word will satisfy us.
We come with aching hearts,
praying for good news to comfort us.
We come with overflowing hearts,
praying for a chance to share your love.
You, who know our hearts and hear our prayers,
be with us now in this hour of worship. Amen.

Hymn "This is My Song" NCH #591

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

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 Anthem "Sing Community, Sing Peace"
Words by Terry York
Music by Mark Hayes

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."

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 Isaiah 6:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

In the year of the death of Uzziah, ruler of Judah, I saw YHWH seated on a high and lofty judgment seat, in a robe whose train filled the Temple. Seraphs were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

They would cry out to one another, *"Holy! Holy! Holy is YHWH Omnipotent! All the earth is filled with God's glory!"* The doorposts and thresholds quaked at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple kept filling with smoke.

Then I said, *"Woe is me, I am doomed! I have unclean lips and I live among a people with unclean lips! And my eyes have seen the Ruler, YHWH Omnipotent!"*

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding an ember which it had taken with tongs from the altar. The seraph touched my mouth with the ember. "See," it said, *"now that this has touched your lips, your corruption is removed, and your sin is pardoned."*

Then I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, *"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"*

"Here I am," I said, *"send me!"*

The Chancel Choir "Homeland" Text by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice
 Tune by Gustav Holst
 Arranged by Z. Randall Stroope

Gospel Reading John 3:1-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher come from God for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: *"The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Nicodemus said, *"How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"*

Jesus replied: *"The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God's kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don't be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, *"You're a teacher of Israel and you still don't understand these matters?"*

The truth of the matter is, we're talking about what we know; we're testifying about what we've seen – yet you don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven – the Chosen One. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world, that God gave the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life."

Sermon

"A Very Brave Soul."

Rev. Rebecca 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. Rebecca West

Choral Blessing "God Bless America" by Irving Berlin

The Bell is Rung

Postlude "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" by Ryuichi Sakamoto

"There is, in reality, a virtual me.
This virtual me will not age, and will continue to
play the piano for years, decades, centuries.
Will there be humans then?
Will the squids that will conquer the earth after
humanity listen to me?
What will pianos be to them?
What about music?
Will there be empathy there?

Empathy that spans hundreds of thousands of years.
Ah, but the batteries won't last that long."

- Ryuichi Sakamoto, 2023



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.

Today's Worship Leadership
Guest Preacher – Rev. Rebecca West
Liturgist – Kim Thompsen
Music Director – Sean Cameron
Greeter/Ushers – Anna Duggan, Diane Vaughan,
Linda Brookshire, Lorraine Martin
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"