



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 9, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Prelude, Op. 28, No. 9" by Frederic Chopin

Please rise or remain seated, as you wish.

Call to Worship

Leader: With hearts full of gratitude, let us raise our voices to God!

People: We sing praises to our God of unfailing love, whose faithfulness reaches to the skies!

L: When we called on God in our difficulties, God answered and strengthened our souls!

P: Though the world may be filled with troubles, God preserves us!

L: Let us join together in worship, to celebrate the unwavering love of our God!

Hymn

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

NCH #546

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to your bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; in your hands, my destiny;
Leave, O leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on you is stayed, all my help from you I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of your wing.

Plenteous grace in you is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within.
Fount of life, your love impart, fill my cup abundantly;
Spring up now within my heart, rise to all eternity.

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

Unison Prayer

"We say 'Yes, yes'"

Walter Brueggemann, 1997

*Holy God, to whom we turn in our trouble,
and from whom we receive life and well-being
even in the face of death;
here we are now in the great congregation.*

*We come here to bear witness of you to our brothers and sisters;
we come here to bear witness because we cannot do otherwise;
we come here to hear the witness of our brothers and sisters,
without whose witness we cannot live.*

*You are the one who does not hide your face when we call.
So we praise you. We worship you. We adore you.
We yield our life over to you in glad thanksgiving.*

*As an act of praise, we submit our sick and our dead to you;
as an act of praise, we submit
more and more of our own life to you;
as an act of praise we notice
your poor and pledge our energy on your behalf.*

*As an act of praise, we say "yes"
to you and to your entire kin-dom.*

*We say "yes, yes"
Amen and Amen.*

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.

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

*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.*

The Chancel Choir Anthem "Beautiful Savior" by David Allen

First Reading: Mark 3:20-25, 27-35 (The Inclusive Bible 2009)

After choosing his disciples, Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and his disciples were unable even to eat a meal. When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking that he had lost his mind.

The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, *He is possessed by Bee-el-ze-bul, and he casts out demons thru the ruler of demons.*

Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables. *How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive...No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.*

The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin. Jesus spoke all this because they said, *He is possessed of an evil spirit.*

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd sat around Jesus and they said to him, *Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.* Jesus replied, *Who is my mother? Who is my family?* And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, *This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother.*

The Chancel Choir Anthem "The Life I've Been Given"
Words and Music by Rachel Allen
Arranged by Tim Coles

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:6b-9, 13-5:1, (The Inclusive Bible 2009)

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, speaks to the church of God in Corinth: *Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and our Savior Jesus Christ:*

But the treasure we possess is in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; we are full of doubts, but we never despair. We are persecuted, but never abandoned; we are struck down, but never destroyed...

But as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture - "I believed and therefore I spoke" – we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the One who raised Jesus to life will in turn raise us with Jesus, and place you with us in God's presence. You see, all of this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.

That is why we don't lose heart. And though this physical self of ours may be troubled, train us to carry the weight of an eternal glory which will make these troubles insignificant by comparison. And we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal.

For we know that when our earthly tent is folded up, there is waiting for us a house built by God, and everlasting home in the heavens, not made by human hands.

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Reader: This is the word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Homily "Misplaced Faithfulness?" Rev. Rebecca West

Hymn "Like a Healing Stream" SPP #73

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.

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

"Go Now In Peace"
by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
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. Rebecca West, Guest Preacher
The Chancel Choir and Sean Cameron, Music Director
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy
Ushers – Elise and Jimmy Cesare, Jenny and Joel Torres
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"