



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 2024

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Words and Music by Fred Rogers

Unison Call to Worship

All the world is sacred;
All places in the world, too.
Some things reveal their sacredness more easily;
Others are yet to be revealed – but will.

Here we pray for the known
and yet to be known.
We are grateful for it all
and for the sweetness of this time
in worship together.

Hymn "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" NCH #459

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

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

Unison Prayer

Holy One, we come to you today to reflect on the lessons of rejection and weakness.

In his home town, Jesus faced disbelief from his own people. At times, we too, feel unseen or unheard. Help us to remember that your purpose for us extends beyond earthly acceptance.

Paul taught that even when we are afflicted with a "thorn in the flesh," your grace is sufficient. We pray for the strength to accept our frailties and the humility to rely on your power instead of our own.

Help us to step outside our comfort zones, to serve others even when we feel inadequate. Empower us to go forth and do your work in the world.

In your holy name, we pray. 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.

Musical Praise

"Migratory V" from Myths and Hymns

Words and Music by Adam Guettel

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, (from The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earthmaker, Painbearer, Lifegiver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father, Mother, Guardian of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 NRSV

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows, And I know that such a person – whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows – was caught up into paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations.

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me to keep me from being too elated.

Three times I appeared to God about this, that it would leave me, but God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, I am strong.

Hymn "As the Grain Was Scattered" SPP #65

As the grain was scattered on the hills,
and was brought together to become our bread,
so we gather from the ends of the earth,
joined around this table as our church.

On hillsides you feed us, through deserts you lead us,
now at this table all are one in Christ. We have new life.

From the vine of David we will drink,
as we give you glory in this holy place
for the gifts of knowledge and of life,
through your child, Jesus Christ, revealed.

On hillsides you feed us, through deserts you lead us,
now at this table all are one in Christ. We have new life.

As the grain was scattered on the hills,
and was brought together to become our bread,
so we gather from the ends of the earth,
joined around this table as our church.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13 NRSV

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the Sabbath, He began to teach in the synagogue and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages, teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff, no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Message

"Overflow of Grace"

Rev. Rebecca West

Hymn

"Send Me, Lord"

NCH #360

Leader: Send me, Lord.

All: Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,
Send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Leader: Lead me, Lord.

All: Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus,
Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

Leader: Fill me, Lord.

All: Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus,
Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

"Let Us Break Bread Together" NCH #330

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

"As We Gather at Your Table" NCH #332

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.

(cont'd) There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

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. Rebecca West

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Grateful" Words and Music by John Bucchino



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 – Connie Kauffman

Ushers – Gini McLaughlin, Jerry Avolio, Mark Conrad and Roberta Smith

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"