



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 14, 2024

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Morning Hymn" from *The Sound of Music*  
Music by Richard Rodgers

Call to Worship

In the darkest valley,  
**at the banquet table;**  
in the hard work of life,  
**at the moments of ease;**  
in our day-to-day reality,  
**at times set aside—**  
like this time, now—  
**for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**  
with every step we take:  
**goodness and mercy follow us;**  
**our cups overflow.**

~ written by Joanna Harader: inspired by Psalm 23

You are the One who sees me.  
You are the One who hears me when I call.  
Even when I run away from you,  
You still speak my name, calling me back to you.

You are the One who sees me.  
You are the One who hears me when I call.  
Even when I run away from you,  
You still speak my name, calling me back to you.

Even when my enemies oppress and my soul is in distress,  
I will run into the shelter of you.  
In you I find the grace to stay  
And face the trials in my way.  
You'll sustain and strengthen me as I go through.

You are the One who sees me.  
You are the One who hears me when I call.  
Even when I run away from you,  
You still speak my name, calling me back to you.

### Unison Prayer

Guardian, Parent, Creator of us all, thank you for your love for us from the beginning of time. You formed us when we were in our mother's wombs, you knit us together lovingly, your devotion to us has not failed, your care has followed us our whole life long. All we are and all we have, we owe to you, and so on this day, in this house we give honor to you with our hearts and hands and voices.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Amen.

~ Written by Carol Penner and posted on "Leading in Worship" (Revised)

### 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  
*Music*

"Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*  
Music by Richard Rodgers  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein  
Jeannine McKenna, soloist

## 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. (cont'd)

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

#### Ephesians 1:3-14 Inclusive Bible version

*Praised be the maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children – such was God’s pleasure and will – that everyone might praise the glory of God’s grace which was freely bestowed on us in God’s beloved, Jesus Christ.*

*It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immensely generous is God’s favor given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ – to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things in heaven and earth together in Christ.*

*In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God – and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel – we were predestined to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good news of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God’s own – to the praise of God’s glory.*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me,  
whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

#### Gospel Reading Mark 6:14-29

*Meanwhile, Herod, the ruler of Judea, had heard about Jesus, whose reputation had become widespread. Some people were saying, "John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead, and that is why such miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah!"; still others, "He is a prophet like one of the prophets of old." When Herod heard of Jesus, he exclaimed, "John, whom I have beheaded, has risen from the dead!"*

*Now it was Herod who had ordered John arrested, chained and imprisoned because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom Herod had married. For John had told Herod, "It is against the law for you to have your brother's wife." As for Herodias, she was furious with John and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be good and holy, and kept him in custody. When Herod heard John speak he was very much disturbed; yet he was moved by John's words.*

*Herodias had her chance one day when Herod on his birthday held a dinner for the court circle, military officers, and leaders of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, this delighted Herod and the guests so much that he told the young woman "Ask me for anything you like and I will give it to you." And Herod swore an oath, "I will give you anything you ask, even half of my kingdom!"*

*She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" Herodias replied, "The head of John the Baptizer."*

*The young woman hurried back to Herod and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter."*

*Herod was deeply distressed by this request, but remembering the oath he swore before the guests, he was reluctant to break his oath to her. So Herod immediately sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring back John's head. The guard beheaded John in prison, then brought the head in on a platter and gave it to the young woman who gave it to her mother.*

*When John's disciples heard about this, they came and took the body away and laid it in a tomb.*

Message "A Mystery: This World Does Not Make Sense!" Rev. Becky 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

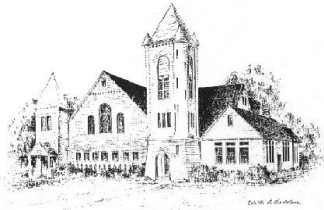
Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Edelweiss" from *The Sound of Music*

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein



## 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  
Jeannine McKenna, soloist

Liturgist – Karen Maust  
Ushers - Elise and Jimmy Cesare,  
Jean Newcombe and Marie Mandell

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”