



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 21, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "I Don't Want To Live on the Moon"
Words and Music by Jeff Moss

Call to Worship

We gather today, hearts and minds open, to hear the whispers of the divine.

In the words of Paul, we find hope, a message of inclusion, of being brought near, made one in Christ.

In the story of Mark, we witness Jesus' boundless compassion, a love that extends beyond borders.

Let us come together, those who doubt and those who believe, for in this space, we all find solace.

As we journey through scripture, may we be renewed, may our faith be strengthened, and may we be inspired to share God's love with the world.

Amen.

Hymn "Born From a Star" Sing! Prayer and Praise #48

Sand on the shoreline, stars in the sky;
Dust of the earth a numberless line:
Abraham and Sarai set off in faith.
Following God's promise of future grace.

Now let them gather, from nearer or far.
God's holy children, dust of a star.
Shine with great brightness, pure as the light.
Join with each other, dance in the night.

Circle together, no need to fear.
Singing God's praises, for all to hear.
Reclaim God's power, be who you are.
God's own creation, born from a star.

Unison Prayer

All that exists is underpinned by Joy.
Joy is an expression of God called "Creation";
called "Universe"; called "Us".
It is the "well-Being" of God's Love
showered upon us in Graceful, Abundant ways.

It is ours, all ours to embrace and to share.
Help us Joyful Generous Graceful God
to remember how blessed we are –
and how we can bless all those you love:
"All of Us".

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 "Bein' Green" Words and Music by Joe Raposo

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

Ephesians 2:11-22

Bear in mind that at one time the men among you who were Gentiles physically – called “the Uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the Circumcised,” all because of a minor operation – had no part in Christ and were excluded from the community of Israel. You were strangers to the Covenant and its promise; you were without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of hostility that kept us apart. In his own flesh, Christ abolished the Law, with its commands and ordinances, in order to make the two into one new person, thus establishing peace and reconciling us all to God in one body through the cross, which put to death the enmity between us. Christ came and “announced the Good News of peace to you who were far away, and to those who were near”; for through Christ we all have access in one Spirit to our God.

This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God’s holy people and are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone. In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple to our God; in Christ you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Hymn "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" NCH #252 v. 1, 2, & 3

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

Let us always seek your favor,
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles came back to Jesus and reported all that they had done and taught. Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to someplace more remote, and rest awhile." For there were many people coming and going, and the apostles hadn't had time to eat. So they went away in a boat to a deserted area.

The people saw them leaving and many recognized them, so they ran together on foot from all the cities and got there ahead of the apostles. When Jesus went ashore, there was a large crowd awaiting him, and he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things.

After crossing the lake, Jesus and the disciples came ashore at Gennesaret and tied up their boat there. No sooner had they stepped out of the boat than people recognized Jesus. The crowds started hurrying about the countryside and brought the sick on stretchers, wherever Jesus went. Wherever he appeared, in villages, in towns, in the countryside, they laid down the sick in the open places, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched Jesus got well.

Message

"Be Calm and Have Faith"

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

"The Rainbow Connection"

Words and Music by

Paul Williams and Kenneth L. Ascher



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
Sean Cameron, Music Director
Roberta Moger, Guest Musician
Liturgist – Bill Houghtalen
Ushers – Jessica and Robert O'Donnell, Carl and Tina MacGowan

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"