



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 4, 2024

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Marche Royale" by Jean-Baptiste Lully  
Edited and arranged by S. Drummond Wolff  
James Cesare, trumpet soloist

Unison Call to Worship

Today we remember that we are called to live with humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with each other in love.  
***We come today with hearts ready to be united in that love.***

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope that binds us together. We celebrate this oneness in Christ, our Savior.

***Let us welcome the gifts of God's blessings, that we may do God's work for justice and peace.***

Hymn

"In Christ There is No East or West"

NCH #394

In Christ there is no East or West,  
in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord  
Close-binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God,  
and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community  
throughout the whole wide earth.

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

Unison Prayer

***O God, we gather today to hear the mighty words of scripture that will help to lead us through this week.***

***Paul and John, the men you chose to grow your message of love and justice, speak not only to their ancient crowds of people, but also to everyone in our church who seeks to follow your way.***

***As Jesus said so long ago, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry."  
May it be so. 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      "Sakura" Japanese Folk Song  
                              Arranged by Ed Hupton  
                              Karen Maust, 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.  
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: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

*I plead with you, then, in the name of our Redeemer, to lead a life worthy of your calling. Treat one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness, and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the peace that binds you together.*

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called into one hope when you were called. There is one Savior, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is over all, who works through all and is within all.*

*Each of us has received God's grace in the measure in which Christ has bestowed it. This you find the scripture saying: "You ascended on high, leading captives in your train, and giving gifts to people."*

*"You ascended – what does this mean but that Christ first descended into the lower regions of the earth? The One who descended is the very One who ascended high above the heavens in order to fill the whole universe.*

*And to some, the gift that they were given is that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, teachers, to some, pastors. These gifts were given to fully equip the holy ones for the work of service, and to build up the body of Christ, until we all attain unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Only Begotten of God, until we become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Let us then be children no longer, tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine, or by human trickery or crafty, deceitful schemes. Rather, let us speak the truth in love, and grow to full maturity in Christ, the head.*

*Through Christ, the whole body grows. With the proper functioning of each member, firmly joined together by each supporting ligament, the body builds itself up in love.*

Hymn

"Come to the Table of Grace"

SPP #112

Come to the table of grace  
Come to the table of grace  
This is Christ's table  
not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of peace  
Come to the table of peace  
This is Christ's table  
not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of peace

Come to the table of love  
Come to the table of love  
This is Christ's table  
not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of love

Come to the table of joy  
Come to the table of joy  
This is Christ's table  
not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of joy

Gospel: *John 6:24-35*

*The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake saw that only one boat had been there; and they knew that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with the disciples – the disciples had set off by themselves. Other boats, however, had put in from Tiberius, near the place where the bread had been eaten after the Rabbi had given thanks. When the people saw that neither Jesus nor the disciples were there, they got into those boats and crossed to Capernaum looking for Jesus.*

*When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them, "The truth of the matter is, you're not looking for me because you've seen signs, but because you've eaten your fill of the bread. You shouldn't be working for perishable food, but for the life-giving food that lasts for all eternity. This the Chosen One can give you, for the Chosen One bears the seal of Abba-God."*

*At this they said, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"*

*Jesus replied, "This is the work of God: to believe in the one whom God has sent."*

*So they asked Jesus, "What sign are you going to give to show us that we should believe in you? What will you do? Our ancestors had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says, 'God gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

*Jesus said to them, "The truth of the matter is, Moses hasn't given you bread from heaven; yet my Abba gives you the true bread from heaven, for the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

*"Teacher," they said, "give us this bread from now on."*

*Jesus explained to them, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty."*

*Rev. West: "This is the word of the Holy One."*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Communion

The Invitation

God calls us to forgive, to build peace,  
and to share loving fellowship.

Everyone may come to the table of reconciliation – which means  
all persons – all ages, cultures, sexual identities, abilities,  
religions, and diversities – those who affirm their elemental  
worth, and those who are yet to do so.

Let us hear these words of Holy Communion,  
and then we will share the bread and juice.

The Purpose

Long ago, God sought to commune with us, and by choosing to  
live with us embodied as Jesus, God experienced all the desires  
and temptations that we face in our daily living as human  
beings.

Jesus, then, first showed us how to restrain those human desires  
and temptations; and in calling his disciples and followers, he  
revealed how to spread his way of love and peace in our wide  
and wonderful community here on Earth.

Presenting the Elements

To remind us of the union of body and spirit, Jesus took a loaf of  
bread, gave thanks, broke it like we often break in our  
relationships with one another, and showed us the way to  
reconcile by asking us to share our bread with each other.

By sharing the broken bread, we participate in and become the  
body of Christ in the world.

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine, again gave thanks, and asked us to drink of the same spirit of loving-kindness and harmony that filled him.

By sharing the cup of blessing, we participate in and become the new life of Christ in the world.

What we symbolize here in this holy space, we justify by our service when we go forth from this place.

### Invitation

In the spirit of Christ, let us share our spiritual journey through the blessings of Holy Communion.

### Partaking of the Bread and Juice

Today we will serve the bread and cup by intinction.

Please come forward in the center aisles, break off piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat, and return to your seats by the side aisles.

A server will bring the bread and cup to those who choose to stay in their pews.

### 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,  
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.

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

Holy God, hear our prayer. We thank you for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and let us show forth your praise in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Go forth with forgiveness, courage, faith, hope, love, peace, justice, kindness, and gentleness. May these virtues, representing the image of God in each one of us as were also manifested in Jesus, strengthen you to reach out in compassion as you nurture and aid others within this worldwide community.

May the Spirit and grace of God be with you and among you.

## Ringling of the Bell

## Postlude

"Bransle de Bourgogne" by Francis Poulenc



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  
James Higgins, Guest Music Director  
James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist  
Liturgist and Soloist – Karen Maust  
Ushers – Gini McLaughlin, Jerry Avolio, Anna Duggan and Sue Lanchantin  
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham,  
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 117823101  
6315891519; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org  
[www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org); [www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc](https://www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc)  
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"