



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 11, 2024

## The Bell is Rung

Prelude            "Turn Out The Stars"  
   Music by Bill Evans

## Unison Call to Worship

In some faith traditions on this day,  
the Feast of the Assumption of Mary is celebrated.  
We are reminded by our siblings in faith that families  
have great potential. They also can cause enormous challenges.  
However you may know your "family" – biological or chosen –  
we, too, share the great potential of our congregational life  
together. Come, now, in prayer for all those who gather  
for the good of others.

Hymn        "Deep Within Our Hearts"    Sing! Prayer and Praise #124

There's a song deep within our hearts  
There's a light burning in our souls  
And a path in the darkness lit from above  
God help us sing your song,  
Spirit to shine your light,  
Jesus to live your love.

There's a song deep within our hearts  
There's a light burning in our souls  
And a path in the darkness lit from above  
God help us sing your song,  
Spirit to shine your light,  
Jesus to live your love.

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

## Unison Prayer for "Families and Homes"

(A variation from "Prayers for Pastors & People", published by The Church Pension Fund Episcopal Church 1984)

Bring us together, Holy One,  
in your all-embracing love,  
every form of family on earth.  
Bestow on those who care for others  
wisdom and patience in the gentle  
exercise of love.

May youth grow in the warmth of such love,  
learning to hear the truth within the words  
one speaks;  
to see the reality beneath the appearance  
of others; and  
for others to hear in the wisdom of their youth –  
the truth within their words and  
the reality beyond their appearance,  
as well.

## 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 "Angels Among Us"

Words and Music by Becky Hobbs and Don Goodman  
Barbara Salva, 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 5:15-20

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are filled with peril. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what God’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to God, always giving thanks for everything, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Hymn      “We Are Your People”      NCH #309

We are your people: Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts in each other,  
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live  
closer than neighbors, open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see  
in all life's changing, where Christ is leading,  
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care  
(peaceful, insisting, risking, resisting),  
wisdom to know when and where.

Spirit, unite us, make us, by grace,  
willing and ready, Christ's living body,  
loving the whole human race.

## Gospel: John 6:51-58

“I’m telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self.”

At this, the Jews started fighting among themselves: “How can this man serve up his flesh for a meal?”

But Jesus didn’t give an inch. “Only insofar as you eat and drink flesh and blood, the flesh and blood of the Son of Man, do you have life within you. The one who brings a hearty appetite to this eating and drinking has eternal life and will be fit and ready for the Final Day. My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. By eating my flesh and drinking my blood you enter into me and I into you. In the same way that the fully alive Abba sent me here and I live because of Abba, so the one who makes a meal of me lives because of me. This is the Bread from heaven. Your ancestors ate bread and later died. Whoever eats this Bread will live always.”

Message

Rev. Rebecca West

## 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 lovingkindness 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

"Crowded Table" Words and Music by Natalie Hemby  
Lori McKenna, and Brandi Carlile



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  
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy  
Ushers – Elise Cesare, James Cesare and Lorraine Martin

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"