

Unison Call to Worship: Psalm 111, selected verses, Incl. Bible

I will thank you, Yahweh, with all my heart,
in the company of the just, in their congregation.
Great are your works.
You make us remember your wonders -
you are compassion and love.
Your name is holy and awe-inspiring!

Reverence for Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom,
and those who revere prove themselves wise.
Your praise will last forever!

Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" NCH #419

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now and shall be evermore.

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

Unison Prayer from Psalm 84 from Psalms for Praying
by Nan C. Merrill (Adapted)

Even as the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nesting place,
where its young are raised within
your majestic creation, O God,
You invite us to dwell within
your Heart.

Blessed are they whose hearts are filled
with love,
who sing praises to you with grateful hearts!

Blessed are they who put their strength
in You,
who choose to share the joy and
sorrows of the world.
They do not give way to fear or doubt;
they are quickened by Divine
Light and Power;
they dwell within the peace of
the Most High.
They go from strength to strength and
live with integrity.

Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

Friends, please rise if you wish.

First Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20 Inclusive Bible

Keep careful watch over your conduct. Don't act like fools, but rather like wise and thoughtful people. Make the most of your time, for these are evil days. Don't continue ignorance, but try to discern the will of God.

Avoid getting drunk on wine - that is debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, meditating on psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to God in your hearts.

Always give thanks to Abba God for everything, in the name of Jesus, our Messiah.

Hymn "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" NCH #290

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Have you not bid us love every way?
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
I see your cross - there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear;
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended above,
my heart and altar, and your love the flame.

Gospel: John 6:35-45a

Jesus explained to them, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry; no one who believes in me will be thirsty. But as I told you, you see me and still don't believe. Everyone Abba God gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I won't turn away. For I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.

It is the will of the One who sent me that I lose none of those given to me, but rather raise them up on the last day. Indeed, this is the will of my Abba: that everyone who sees and believes in the Only Begotten will have eternal life. These are the ones I will raise up on the last day."

The Temple authorities started to grumble in protest because Jesus claimed, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They kept saying, "Isn't this Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph? Don't we know his mother and father? How can he claim to have come down from heaven?"

"Stop your grumbling," Jesus told them. "No one can come to me unless drawn by Abba God, who sent me - and those I will raise up on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'"

Message: "Open Our Eyes, that We May See" Rev. Rebecca 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 John O'Donohue, Benedictus, Bantam 2007
Rev. Rebecca West

And now, our service begins.

*Respond to the call of your gift
and the courage to follow its path.
Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.
May your outer dignity mirror the inner dignity of your soul.
May you experience each day as a sacred gift
woven around the heart of wonder.*

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Why Me? (Why Me, Lord?)"
Words and Music by Kris Kristofferson



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 Smith and Roberta Moger, soloists
Liturgist – Bill Houghtalen
Ushers – Barbara Salva, Jean Newcombe,
Pat Mahar and Roberta Smith

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; 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 Tune in any time!

Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.
"Namaste"