



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude            "Jesu, Joy of My Desiring"  
                          by J.S. Bach  
                          James Cesare, trumpet soloist

## Unison Call to Worship

All the world is sacred;  
All places in the world, too.  
Some things reveal their sacredness more easily;  
Others are yet to be revealed – but will.

Here we pray for the known  
and yet to be known.  
We are grateful for it all  
and for the sweetness of this time  
in worship together.

## Hymn "As the Grain Was Scattered" SPP#62

As the grain was scattered on the hills,  
and was brought together to become our bread,  
so we gather from the ends of the earth,  
joined around this table as our church.

On hillsides you feed us,  
through deserts you lead us,  
now at this table all are one in Christ.  
We have new life.

From the vine of David we will drink,  
as we give you glory in this holy place  
for the gifts of knowledge and of life,  
through your child, Jesus Christ, revealed.

On hillsides you feed us,  
through deserts you lead us,  
now at this table all are one in Christ.  
We have new life.

As the grain was scattered on the hills,  
and was brought together to become our bread,  
so we gather from the ends of the earth,  
joined around this table as our church.

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

Unison Prayer            "Unbottled Time" by Ray Bagnuolo

It is, this thing: time – empty without you.  
It is, this mystery: that stirs mystics and skeptics, alike  
          although to different ends – of the same eternity.

To say, "We need you" understates the obvious.  
Better, "We are not" - without you;  
This time is ours because you have called us yours.  
Time, beyond all time, trembles because you fill  
the void, we only need to enter, discovering  
there is no emptiness with you...

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            "Ave Maria" by J.S. Bach and Charles Gounod  
   Arranged by Wanda Sobieska  
   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.  
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: Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 – 8:1

Wisdom is the brightness that shines forth from eternal light. She's a mirror that reflects God's activity; the perfect image of God's goodness. Wisdom can do anything, since Wisdom's one and undivided; never changes – and yet makes everything new.

Generation after generation, Wisdom enters souls and shapes them into God's friends and prophets. God doesn't love anything as much as people who make their homes with wisdom. Wisdom is more splendid than the sun and more wonderful than the arrangement of the stars. She's even brighter than sunlight, for night follows day but can never overcome Wisdom.

Wisdom stands strong from one end of the world to the other; a marvelous governor over everything in between.

Hymn                    "Just As I Am"                    NCH#207

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called inviting me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down,  
Now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-16, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the religious scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They had noticed that some of the disciples were eating with unclean hands - that is, without ritually washing them. For the Pharisees, and Jewish people in general, follow the tradition of their ancestors and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow. Moreover, they never eat anything from the Market without first sprinkling it. There are many other traditions which have been handed down to them, such as the washing of cups and pots and dishes.

So these Pharisees and religious scholars asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of our ancestors, but eat their food with unclean hands?"

Jesus answered, "How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer is worthless; the doctrines they preach are only human precepts.' You disregard God's commandments and cling to human traditions."....

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters us from the outside makes us impure; it is what comes out of us that makes us impure. If you have ears to hear, then listen."

For it is from within - from our hearts - that evil intentions emerge: promiscuity, theft, obscenity, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evils come from within and make us impure.

Message:

“Tears of Truth”

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 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"      NCH #332

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 from the Rig Veda

*Let us be united, let us speak in harmony  
let our minds apprehend alike.*

*Common be our prayer, common be our resolution,  
common be our deliberations.*

*Alike be our feelings, Unified be our hearts,  
common be our intentions.*

*Perfect be our unity.*

## Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head"

Words and Music by Burt Bacharach



## 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

James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Jeannine McKenna, Soloist

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Ushers – Anna Duggan, Bill Johnson,  
Lorraine Martin and Marion MacGowan

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](http://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”