



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Prelude for Organ, No. 18" by C. H. Rinck

Call to Worship, a Jewish prayer

How wonderful, O God, are the works of your hands!

The heavens declare your glory, the arch of sky displays
your handiwork.

In your love you have given us the power to behold the
beauty of your world, robed in all its splendor.

In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music
of the world.

A divine voice sings to us through all creation.

We thank you, Holy God. Amen

Hymn

“Love and Justice”

SPP#13

Love and justice, peace and pow'r,
show us how to live each hour,
raise us up and set us free,
show us how to live and be.

Love and justice, peace and power,
challenge us to give each hour,
raise us up and set us free,
help us be all we can be.

Tell your neighbors, tell your friends,
here's a place hope never ends.
Love and justice, peace and power,
God is with us in this hour!
God is with us in this hour!
God is with us in this hour!

Unison Prayer From “If you have a minute...” by Ray Bagnuolo

“Can I talk with you? I’m doing my best to hold on to optimism and joy and the idea of Hope Eternal. It’s not always easy. I long for you – wonder where you are, at the same moment I know you are here. Right here.

“It’s not my lack of faith that brings me to these questions and you. It is my faith that draws me in. It’s just, well, sometimes everything builds up. Gets heavy. You know what I mean?

“Of course you do...

“So, if it is alright with you (I know it is), I will lay everything down here...in this place.

“I don’t really need an answer. I just want to know that you hear me from deeply within my soul. And of course, you do.

“Now, that feels better. Thank you for the chat, thanks for listening. Now, it’s my time to listen.”

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.

The Chancel Choir "Sing Forth, Rejoice!" Music by John Amner
Arranged by Hal Hopson

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

My faith, it is an oaken staff,
the traveler's well-loved aid;
My faith, it is a song of trust,
sustains me undismayed.
I'll travel on and still be stirred
by silent thought or social word;
By all my perils undeterred,
a pilgrim unafraid.

My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps,
when travelers have trod,
Whether beneath was flinty rock
or yielding grassy sod,
They carried on, their joy unspent;
through pain and trial they onward went,
Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent
their zealous course to God.

My faith, it is an oaken staff,
O let me on it lean.
My faith provides the ground of hope,
supports a purpose keen.
Your Spirit, God, upon me send,
that I may be what you intend.
With patient courage,
we'll contend as radiant saints serene.

First Reading: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is better than great wealth, the esteem of
others, than gold and silver.
The wealthy and the poor share a common bond: YHWH is
the creator of us all.

...

Calamity is the fruit of iniquity; the reign of terror self-
destructs.

A blessing comes to the generous, when they give of their
bounty to the poor.

...

Don't cheat the poor or take advantage of their poverty, or intimidate the needy in court.
For YHWH will defend their cause, oppressing those who oppress them.

The Chancel Choir "Sing A New Song"

Music by Michael Haydn
Arranged by Hal Hopson

New Testament Reading: James 2:1-10, 12-17

My sisters and brothers, your faith in our glorious Savior Jesus Christ must not allow favoritism. Suppose there should come into your assembly a person wearing gold rings and fine clothes and, at the same time, a poor person dressed in shabby clothes. Suppose further you were to take notice of the well-dressed one and say, "Sit right here, in the seat of honor"; and say to the poor one, "You can stand!" or "Sit over there by my footrest." Haven't you in such a case discriminated in your hearts? Haven't you set yourselves up like judges who hand down corrupt decisions?

Listen, dear sister and brothers: didn't God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heir of the kingdom promised to those who love God? Yet you've treated poor people shamefully! Aren't rich people exploiting you? Aren't they the ones who haul you into courts, and who blaspheme that noble Name by which you've been called?

You're acting rightly, however, if you fulfill the venerable law of the scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show favoritism, you commit sin, and that same law convicts you as transgressors. Those who keep the whole law except for one small point are still guilty of breaking all of it.

...

Talk and behave as people who will be judged by the law of freedom, because judgment without mercy will be the lot of those who are not merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

My sisters and brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save. If any are in need of clothes and have no food to live on, and one of you says to them, "Goodbye and good luck, stay warm and well-fed," without giving them the bare necessities of life, then what good is this? So it is with faith; if good deeds don't go with it, faith is dead."

Message

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, Benedictions, a Book of Blessings*

And now our service begins.

May you recognize in your life the presence,
Power, and light of your soul.
May you realize that you are never alone,
That your soul in its brightness and belonging
Connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your individuality and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique,
That you have a special destiny here,
That beyond the façade of your life
There is something beautiful and eternal happening.

May you learn to see your self with the same delight, pride,
and expectation
With which God sees you in every moment.

Amen.

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer" by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "American Tune" by Paul Simon



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 and Jimmy Cesare,
Roberta Smith and Lorraine Martin

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"