



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Prelude for Organ, No. 28" by C.H. Rinck

Responsive Call to Worship: selected verses from Psalm 19
Common English Bible

Heaven declares God's glory; the sky proclaims God's handiwork.

God's instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

God's judgments are pure, giving light to the eyes.

Honoring God is correct, lasting forever.

God's judgments are true! They are more desirable than gold...

They are sweeter than honey, even dripping off the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be
pleasing to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

Hymn

“Welcome to This House” SPP#7

Welcome to this house,
open and affirming.
In God's Son we are all one.
Hand in hand we stand.
Welcome to this house,
caring and accepting.
In God's Son we are all one.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,
there is room for ev'ryone.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Let us all be one.
Welcome to this house,
where God gives the call to serve.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,
blessed by Word and Harmony.
Child of God, born from above.
Know that Christ is love.
Welcome to this house,
filled with peace and charity.
Child of God, born from above,
welcome to this house of God.

Unison Prayer From “Unfolding...” by Ray Bagnuolo

It's different than, say, unfolding a napkin. For one, there are corners to a napkin that make it easy to unfold and refold (unlike the dreaded fitted sheet).

The Universe unfolds not from its corners, for it seems that there are none, but from its center – more as a fountain; yes, a fountain of love – in every direction.

Remind us of your "fountain-ness",
your "make a prayer or a wish" invitation for us
embrace;
Your vision that sees no corners in Us or anywhere else -
with anything other than Love.

Let us begin our worship today, from this place -
our dreams and prayers here, in our hearts and hands.

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 "The Peace of God" by Douglas Wagner

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

Hymn

"Nearer, My God, to You"

NCH#606

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do
And pray each day anew:
Nearer my God, to you nearer my God,
to you, nearer to you.

When I am wandering as Jacob did,
and in the deepest night the path is hid,
my dreams will bring me, too,
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God,
to you, nearer to you.

Let Jacob's ladder fill the sky above,
and angels carry down the faith and love
to keep this goal in view:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God,
to you, nearer to you.

Then, waking from the night to morning air
by Bethel's stone, I'll know you heard my prayer,
and how my yearning grew:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God,
to you, nearer to you.

1st Reading, James 3:1-12 New Inclusive Bible

Only a few of you, brothers and sisters, should be teachers. You should realize that those of us who are teachers will be called to a stricter account. After all, each of us makes many mistakes from time to time.

However, those who never say anything wrong are truly close to perfection, because they can then control every part of themselves. Once we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies. The same with ships – no matter how large they are, and even if they are driven by fierce winds, they are directed by a very small rudder to wherever the captain wants to go.

The tongue is like that. It's a small part of the body, yet it makes great boasts. See how tiny the spark is that sets an entire forest ablaze? The tongue is such a flame. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world in itself. It infects the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell. All kinds of animals – birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea – can be tamed by us, but no one can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

We use it to say, 'Praised be our God and Creator,' then we use it to curse each other – we who are created in the image of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This shouldn't be, my sisters and brothers! Does a spring emit both pure and brackish water? My sisters and brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and neither can a fountain produce both fresh and salt water.

The Chancel Choir "Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord" by Don Besig

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38 New Inclusive Bible

Then Jesus and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus asked the disciples this question; "Who do people say that I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others Elijah ; still others, one of the prophets."

"And you," he went on to ask, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah!" But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!"

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to follow me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

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

Choral Blessing

"Go Now In Peace" by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Grand Central Station"
by Mary Chapin Carpenter



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 – Hank Maust
Ushers – Gini McLaughlin, Jerry Avolio,
Kim Thompsen and Marie Mandell

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"