



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 6, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Sinfonia" by Henry Purcell
 James Cesare, trumpet soloist

Call to Worship by Joseph H. Gilmore

I want this to be a place
where we can touch and be touched
by the utterly,
the unmistakably sacred –
the breath in all breathing,
the light in all seeing,
the fire in every righteous anger,
the resonance in deep silence,
the love which graces and ennobles
all loves,
the hospitality which bids a welcome
to each of our returnings –
and grieves a little
at each of our leavings.

The unmistakably sacred
which precedes all of our singing;
the sighing which, when we are awake,
calls us home to ourselves,
where in our blood and bones
the body of God dwells.

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 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Rochester, NY

Loving God, in your wisdom, you created a world rich with diversity. Today, as we acknowledge National Coming Out Day, we give thanks for the gifts of sexual orientation and gender identity. We celebrate with our queer, transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings who choose to come out, and honor those who do not. Today, we say “yes” to the diversity among us—within ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and our communities. We claim that diversity as we come before you and as we go out into the world. At times, we turn away from this diversity, fearful of its transformative power. We reject that which is different, force it to be silent, or pretend that it does not exist. We participate in systems that privilege sameness and uproot difference. Give us the courage to live boldly into the mystery of diversity, the strength to persevere in the face of adversity, and the power to love in ways that go beyond understanding. Help us create a world where all people can flourish.

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 "Keep Me Faithfully In Thy Paths"
by George Frederick Handel

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: Job 1:1; 2:1-10 (TIB)

Once upon a time in the land of Uz, there lived a man named Job. Job was honest and upright, revered God and turned away from evil...

One day, the heavenly court gathered to present themselves before YHWH, and Satan was among them. YHWH said to Satan, "Where have you been?"

Satan replied, "Oh, here and there, roaming around the world."

YHWH said to Satan, "Have you noticed Job, my faithful one? There's no one on earth like him! He is unlike anyone else in the world, honest and upright, reveres God and turns away from evil! His integrity is intact – even though you incited me to ruin him without cause!"

Satan replied, "Skin for skin! A person will give away every possession just to stay alive! But reach out your hand and strike Job's flesh and bone, and he'll curse you to your face."

So YHWH said to Satan "Very well, Job is in your hand. Just spare his life."

Then Satan left YHWH's presence and afflicted Job with painful boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

Job would take a piece of broken pottery to scrape his skin with as he sat among the ashes.

Job's wife said to him, "So you're still holding onto your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He replied, "Only foolish people talk like that. If we accept happiness from God, we should also accept adversity." Through all this, Job never sinned with his words.

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 10:13-16

People were bringing their children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples scolded them for this.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. The truth is, whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God as a little child won't enter it."

And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Message:

"Come to the Table"

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,
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.

Musical Praise "Communion Prayer" by Allen Pote

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: Numbers 6:24-26, adapted

*May God bless us and protect us;
May God smile on us and be gracious to us;
May God show us kindness and give us peace.
Amen*

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer" by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Intermezzo in A Major" Op. 116 by Johannes Brahms



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
Elizabeth Leddy, Guest Music Director
James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Liturgist – Connie Kauffman
Ushers – Marie Mandell, Anna Duggan,
Lorraine Martin and Marion MacGowan

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"