



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
October 13, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Mein Herzens - Jesu, meine Lust" by C. H. Rinck

Call to Worship by Albert Camus

In the midst of hate, I found there was  
within me, an invincible love.  
In the midst of tears, I found there was  
within me, an invincible smile.  
In the midst of chaos, I found there was  
within me, an invincible calm.  
I realized, through it all, that in the  
midst of winter, I found there was  
within me,  
an invincible summer.

And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how  
hard the world pushes against me, there is something  
stronger, something better, pushing right back.

*Come, friends, together, as we join in the invincible  
nature and promise of worship, prayer and song.*

Hymn

“Come and Fill”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #34

Come and fill all my life,  
Come and fill all my  
life. Each and every  
tender place:  
Holy Breath, move through me.

Come and fill all  
my life, Come and  
fill all my life.  
Pouring gently, rushing  
strong: Holy Breath,  
move through me.

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

Unison Prayer

“Wild Geese”

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you about mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are  
heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like wild geese, harsh and exciting—  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## 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

"Beautiful Savior"

Music by David Allen

### 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      "Come O Fount of Every Blessing"      NCH #459

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,  
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

First Reading: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (The Inclusive Bible, TIB)

*Then Job replied: I am still bitter in my complaint – God’s hand is heavy, despite all my groaning. If only I knew where to find the Almighty, so I could approach the Judgment Seat! I would make my case to God, and expound my best arguments in my defense.*

*But I would also benefit by hearing the answers and get a grip on what is behind all this. Would God get on a high horse in debating with me? No, God would give me a chance to state my case! There an upright person could make such a convincing case that I would be delivered forever from my Judge.*

*But if I go east, God isn’t there; if I go west, I find nothing. When God is working up north, I can see no one; when God turns south, I don’t even catch a glimpse...*

*The Most High makes my heart sink, and makes my body shake in terror. Even so, I’m not silenced by the darkness nor by the deep gloom that covers my face.*

The Chancel Choir

“To Everything There Is A Season”

Music by Ed Harris

Gospel: Mark 10: 17-31

*As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?” Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honor your mother and your father”*

*The other replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood.*

*Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, "There is one more thing that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me."*

*At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly. Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter the kin-dom of God."*

*The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: "My children, how hard it is to enter the realm of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kin-dom of God!"*

*The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible – but not for God. With God, all things are possible." Peter was moved to say, "We have left everything to follow you!"*

*Jesus answered, "The truth is, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields for me and for the sake of the Gospel who won't receive a hundred times as much in this present age – as many homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children and property, though not without persecution – and in the age to come, everlasting life."*

*Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."*

Message: "Job and Chaos"

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:

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,  
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,  
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,  
May your thoughts recline with reverence and respect.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
To hear in the depths the laughter of God.

~ John O'Donohue, *Benedictus*, 2007 UK

Choral Blessing      "Go Now In Peace" Music by Don Besig  
Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

## Ringling of the Bell

Postlude      "What A Wonderful World"  
Words and Music by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele



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 – Bill Houghtalen  
Ushers – Elise and Jimmy Cesare,  
Linda Brookshire and Roberta Smith

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham,  
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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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”