



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Prière" by Pierre de Bréville

Unison Call to Worship "The Bending" by Joseph H. Gilmore

We breathe the Breath of thee
in and out,
all the days of our lives
and as though
there were nothing to it.
Blessed art thou,
who bends to us,
every one,
and gives us a borrowed
and sacred breath.

Thine own.
Let us, therefore,
not presume.

Let us remember the bending
of thee to every
(last)
one of us:
before the bending,
we were not;
after it, we were;
and now
we can never not be
again.

Blessed art thou,
spirit, breath, wind.

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.

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

Unison Prayer An excerpt from Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise"

"Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like tear drops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?"

No. This is why we worship and pray together.

To remember we are whole, alive, strong in our God; ready;
entering the world with Love greater than any lament...

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

“Comfort Ye, My People” Isaiah 40: 1-3
Music by John Carter

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

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

First Reading: Samuel 1:4-20, The Jewish Study Bible, Tanakh Translation

On one such market day, Elkanah offered a sacrifice, He used to give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he would give one portion only – though Hannah was his favorite – for God had closed her womb.

Moreover, her rival, to make her miserable, would taunt her that God had closed her womb. This happened year after year: every time she went up to the House of God, the other would taunt her, so that she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why are you crying and why aren't you eating? Why are you so sad? Am I not more devoted to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose. The priest Eli was sitting on the seat near the doorpost of the

Temple of God. In her wretchedness, she prayed to God, weeping all the while. And she made this vow: "O Lord of Hosts, if You will look upon the suffering of your maidservant and will remember me and not forget your maidservant and if you will grant your maidservant a male child, I will dedicate him to you for all the days of his life; and no razor shall touch his head."

As she kept on praying before God, Eli watched her mouth. Now Hannah was praying in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice could not be heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Sober up!"

"Oh, no, my lord! I am a very unhappy woman; I have only been speaking all this time to God. I have drunk no wine or other strong drink, but I have been pouring out my heart to God. Do not take your maidservant for a worthless woman; I have only been speaking all this time out of my great anguish and distress"

"Then go in peace," said Eli, "and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked for." She answered, "You are most kind to your handmaid." So the woman left, and she ate, and was no longer downcast. Early next morning they bowed low before God, and they went back home to Ramah.

Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and God remembered her. Hannah conceived, and at the turn of the year bore a son. She named him Samuel, meaning, "I asked God for him."

The Chancel Choir

"Give Peace Again"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

Second Reading: 1 Samuel 1:21-28; 2:1-11, *ibid.*

And when the man Elkanah and all his household were going up to offer to God the annual sacrifice and his votive sacrifice, Hannah did not go up. She said to her husband, "When the child is weaned, I will bring him. For when he has appeared before God, he must remain there for good" Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do as you think best. Stay home until you have weaned him. May God fulfill God's word. So the woman stayed home and nursed her son until she weaned him (after three years. 2 Macc. 7.27).

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a jar of wine. And although the boy was still very young, she brought him to the House of God at Shiloh. After slaughtering the bulls, they brought the boy to Eli. She said, "Please, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you and prayed to God. It was this boy I prayed for; and God has granted me what I asked for. I, in turn, hereby lend him to God. For as long as he lives, he is lent to God. And they bowed low before God.

And Hannah prayed:

My heart exults in God;
I have triumphed through God.
I gloat over my enemies;
I rejoice in your deliverance.
There is no holy one like God,
Truly, there is none beside you;
There is no rock like our God.
Talk no more with lofty pride,
Let no arrogance cross your lips!
For God is all-knowing;
By God actions are measured.

The bows of the mighty are broken,
And the faltering are girded with strength.
Men once sated must hire out for bread;
Men once hungry hunger no more.
While the barren woman bears seven,
The mother of many is forlorn.
God deals death and gives life,
Casts down into Sheol and raises up.
God makes poor and makes rich;
God casts down, and also lifts high.
God raises the poor from the dust,
Lifts up the needy from the dunghill,
Setting them with nobles,
Granting them seats of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are God's;
God has set the world upon them.
God guards the steps of the faithful,
But the wicked perish in darkness-
For not by strength shall man prevail.

The foes of God shall be shattered;
God will thunder against them in the heavens.
God will judge the ends of the earth.
God will give power to God's king
And triumph to God's anointed one.

Then Elkanah and Hannah went home to Ramah, and the boy entered service to God under the priest Eli.

This is the Word of God.

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, "A Franciscan Blessing"

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

And let us pray for and with one another. Amen.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Way Over Yonder"
 Words and Music by Carole King



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more than a century and a half, Sayville 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 – Karen Maust
Ushers – Hilda Baeza, Lorraine Severin,
Roberta Smith and Susan Ryan

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; 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 Tune in any time!
Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.

“Namaste”