



Second Sunday of Advent  
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
December 8, 2024

Whose laughter invites us, whose earth upholds us,  
whose stars we wish upon,  
whose symphony for birdsong awakens, oh awakens, us,  
candle to a blinding sun.

from "By a Mighty and Shining Grace"  
by Joseph H. Gilmore

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"Peace in the Valley"

by Thomas A. Dorsey

Arranged by Jason Coleman

## Call to Worship & Lighting of the Candle by The Sunday School Children

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. In a moment, we will light the second candle on our Advent wreath: the candle of Peace.

In the time before the birth of Jesus, the Israelites had little peace or hope for the future of their nation or their people, except for the power of God that remained strong in their lives, even as they wavered from time-to-time. Even so, they awaited the "One who would come; a messiah, an anointed leader, like David. They believed when that happened, all would be well – again."

Today we continue our 2024 Advent journey, anticipating the birth of Jesus, the one who is called the Light of the World and whose Peace exceeds all earthly understanding for all peoples and nations.

As we light the candle of Peace, we give thanks for all who ceaselessly and courageously work for Peace and embody its grace and power, love and hope for each of us and this world, all in the name of the one called Jesus.

(The candles are lit...)

*Please rise if you wish and join us in singing*

"One Candle is Lit" Verse 1 for Hope; Verse 2 for Peace

Come surely, Sweet Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our visions engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the day.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

*Please be seated*

A Voice Responds

These fires atop towers of wax, symbolize the ever-present Light of the World, the One we await, born to us long ago, in a manger far away and (now) as close as the hearts here and afar that beat together, within us all.

*Please remain as you are and join us in singing*

Hymn "Deep Peace" Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #201

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.  
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.

Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.  
Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.

Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.  
Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.

*Please rise, if you wish, and join in praying our Unison Prayer*

Unison Prayer, based upon Luke 1:68-79

Gracious and loving God,

We come to you with grateful hearts, thankful for your redemption and salvation. You raised up a mighty Savior for us, in the house of your servant, David, fulfilling the promises you made to our ancestors.

In your tender mercy, you abide with us, shining light upon those in darkness and guiding our feet into the way of peace. You show us the paths of holiness and righteousness, and free us from fear, so that we may serve you all our lives.

May we carry your peace within us, sharing your love and salvation with all whom we encounter. Guide us, Creator God, as we seek to follow the example set before us, walking in faith and trust.

In the name of Jesus our Savior, we pray. Amen.

## Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

*Please rise if you wish and join us in passing the Peace of Christ*

### 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!

Chancel Choir            "Spin the World" from *Emmanuel*  
by Dorothy Davidson Hauscke

*Please be seated*

### 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 – "The Lord's Prayer"

Creator God who is in heaven

Hallowed\* be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Keep awake, be always ready,  
God's time approaches sure and steady,  
God's strength will keep your heart from blame.  
Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing,  
disperse, God's purest light revealing;  
creation will its Sovereign name.  
Dry branches burst forth green,  
God's advent signs are seen: Hallelujah!  
Christ's judgment won, God's will be done;  
God's new dominion thus begun.

First Reading: Philippians 1:3-11 (TIB)

*I thank my God every time I think of you. In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice at the way you have continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day. And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus.*

*It's only right that I should entertain such expectations about you, since I hold all of you dear – you who are all partakers of grace with me, even when I lie in prison or am summoned to defend the solid ground on which the Good News rests.*

*God knows how much I long for each of you with all the affection of Christ Jesus! My prayer is that your love may abound more and more, both in understanding and in wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ.*

*It's my wish that you be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.*

Gospel Reading from the Book of Luke, 3:1-6

*In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene.*

*In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:*

*"A herald's voice in the desert, crying  
'Make ready the way of our God;  
clear a straight path.  
Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
The twisted paths will be made straight,  
and the rough places smooth –  
and all humankind will see the salvation of God.'  
The mouth of God has spoken it."*

Message "The Peace of Christ Be with You" 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

Rev. Rebecca West

*...adapted from "for peace" by John O'Donohue, Benedictus*

*As the fever of day calms towards twilight  
May all that is strained in us come to peace.  
We pray for all who suffered today;  
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.*

*For those who risk their lives each day for peace,  
may their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.  
May those who enjoy the privilege of peace  
remember their tormented brothers and sisters.*

*May the wolf lie down with the lamb  
and our swords beaten into ploughshares;  
and may no hurt or harm be done  
anywhere along the holy mountain. Amen.*

## Choral Blessing

"Go Now In Peace"

Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Music by Don Besig

## Ringling of the Bell

## Postlude

"Make Me A Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)"  
Words and Music by Sebastian Temple, Arranged by Jane Holstein



## 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!

Rev. Becky West, Guest Preacher  
Sean Cameron, Music Director  
Liturgist – Jenna Murphy  
Ushers –Elise and Jimmy Cesare,  
Lorraine Severin and Patricia Mahar

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](http://www.sayvilleucc.org); [www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc](http://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](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.  
"Namaste"