



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
First Sunday after Christmas  
December 29, 2024



Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Shine On Me" *Traditional*  
Arranged by Rollo A. Dilworth

Responsive Call to Worship

*Leader: Holy God, you call all of creation today to praise you in every way: the cosmos, the earth and its creatures, and all of its people, men, women, children, rulers, teachers, judges, young and old.*

***All: We praise the name of YHWH, who alone is exalted above all others!***

*Leader: Your majesty transcends heaven and earth, and you gift us with horns and instruments to proclaim your greatness.*

***All: We witness with gratitude to your presence in the Word, come to earth to show us the way of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and that Word is the baby Jesus!***

*Leader: Alleluia! We sing Alleluia!*

***All: Alleluia!***

Hymn                    "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"    NCH #144

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christchild bring;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angel host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christchild bring!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time the Savior comes, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christchild bring!"

Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness,  
Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.  
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christchild bring!"

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

Unison Prayer

We remember you, O God, as we have again recalled the holy story of the birth of Jesus through age-old carols and music and scripture, and the memory of angel wings flying over the shepherds on that extraordinary night.

Give us boldness with this birth, to create new ways of community, new links of affection and to encourage true, meaningful ways to move into closeness with each other and all people, together.  
Amen.

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          "Oh Little Child" from *Emmanuel*  
by Dorothy Davidson Hausske

## 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.

Hymn "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" NCH #136

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 148

*Alleluia! Praise YHWH from the heavens; praise God in the heights!*

*Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!*

*Praise God, sun and moon; praise God all you shining stars!*

*Praise God, all you heavens; and you waters above the heavens!*

*Let them praise the name of YHWH, by whose command they were created.*

*God established them forever and ever, and gave a decree which won't pass away.*

*Praise YHWH from the earth, you sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small animals and flying birds, rulers of the earth and leaders of all nations, all the judges in the world, young men and young women, old people and children – let them all praise the name of YHWH whose name alone is exalted, whose majesty transcends heaven and earth, and who has raised up a Horn for God's people to the praise of the faithful, the children of Israel, the people dear to God!*

*Alleluia!*

The Chancel Choir "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" from *Messiah*  
by George Frideric Handel  
Jeannine McKenna, soprano soloist

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem the feast of Passover, and when Jesus was twelve, they went up for the celebration as was their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph. Thinking Jesus was in their caravan, they continued their journey for the day, looking back for him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Not finding Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day, they came upon Jesus in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been so worried, looking for you." Jesus said to them, "Why are you looking for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Abba's house?"

But they didn't understand what he told them. Then Jesus went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Mary stored these things in her heart, and Jesus grew in wisdom, in years, and in favor with God and people alike.

Message

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

O, God, there are plenty of questions ahead,  
many questions about how to live like Jesus in this troubled world.  
For now, though,  
while we can still hear the cry of the baby in the manger,  
and while the angel songs still linger,  
let us join the chorus of all creation:  
Praise the Lord!  
Amen.

## Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer" by Don Besig

## Ringling of the Bell

## Postlude

"Auld Lang Syne" *Traditional*  
Arranged by Jim Brickman



## 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 – Kim Thompsen

Ushers – Rob and Jessica O'Connell, Gail Acker, Sara Hartmann

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

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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”