



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 12, 2025

Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude            “Prière”  
                          by Pierre de Bréville

*Please rise or remain seated if you wish and join us in this morning’s  
Call to Worship.*

Call to Worship

Love reveals in exquisite personal ways. Cascading from its original source: God’s Love; flowing through us into this time, our time – it seeks itself (God) in all others.

With persistence and humility, Love overcomes even the most distant of hearts – later, if not now. It brings us to itself, regardless of what may be in the way of the moment. Love comes to us always as it does in this time we share together.

We come to this expanse of God with fullness in our hearts, embracing this exquisite personal God who loves us all.

*Please remain standing or seated and join us in singing this morning's hymn:*

Hymn "As with Gladness Those of Old" NCH #159

As with gladness those of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, true Morning Star, may we  
evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
One whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger plain and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
And when mortal things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds your glory hide.

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

Unison Prayer:

We love.  
In *all* that means, we do.

Knowing we are loved,  
always and unconditionally,  
promises that we are never lost;  
never alone;  
never without hope.

May our faces reflect the grace  
and hospitality  
we are ready to share.

May our hearts reflect our gratitude  
for being of use in your world.

And, may our prayers reflect  
our trust in you  
through all struggles –  
especially those  
closest to the ones we love.

We pray these things and more.

We ask your help opening  
our hands and hearts to all,  
in your name,  
and in all the ways  
we know you.  
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          “The Water is Wide”  
Traditional Scottish folk song  
Arranged by Gilbert M. Martin

### 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.

## Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7 (The Inclusive Bible)

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob,  
hear the words of YHWH –  
the One who created you,  
the One who fashioned you, Israel:  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the seas, I will be with you;  
when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown.  
Walk through fire, and you will not be singed;  
walk through flames and you will not be burned.  
I am YHWH, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.

I give Egypt as ransom for you.  
You are more precious to me than Assyria;  
you are honored, and I love you.  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
whole nations in exchange for your life.

Have no fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your descendants from the east  
and gather them from the west.  
To the north I will say, 'Give them up!'  
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back!'

Bring my daughters and sons from afar,  
return them from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my Name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made!

*Please stand if you wish and join us in singing:*

Hymn "As the Grain Was Scattered" SPP#65

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.

Gospel: Luke 3:21-22 (TIB)

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy One descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, 'You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests.'

Message

“For the Love of God”

Rev. Rebecca West

Musical Praise

“Members, One of Another”

Words and Music by Hank Beebe

### 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 to show how we often break our relationships with one another. Then, Jesus showed us the way to reconcile by asking us to share our bread with each other.

When we share this broken loaf, we 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 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” NCH #332

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 our praise for you in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## 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

Renew in us, O God, all the gifts of baptism—  
strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering,  
the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life;  
through Jesus Christ who makes us one.  
Send us in your Name, Holy One.  
Amen.

## Choral Blessing

"Communion Prayer"

Words and Music by Allen Pote

## Ringling of the Bell

## Postlude

"An American Tune"

Words and Music by Paul Simon



## 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

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Ushers – Karen Gunkel, James and Elise Cesare

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”