



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

Together

IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO BE

Communion Sunday
February 2, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "O mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi*
by Giacomo Puccini
James Cesare, trumpet soloist

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

Call to Worship

Love is many things...
Especially being together.
Here. Today. Now. Later. At home.
Together. With love, in love.
in the presence of Love.
Let us worship together!

Baptism of Beren Martin Minogue

Friends, please rise if you wish.

Hymn "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

NCH #351

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

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.

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

The Chancel Choir Anthem "Come As You Are To The Table"
by Dana Mengel

Gospel: John 15:9-15

As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love.

*And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments,
just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's
commandments.*

*I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be
complete.*

*This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.
There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's
friends.*

And you are my friends, if you do what I command you.

*I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate
doesn't know a superior's business. Instead, I call you friends,
because I have made known to you everything I have learned from
Abba God.*

Hymn "Spirit of the Living God" NCH#283

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me;
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Message *All About Love!* Rev. Rebecca West

The Chancel Choir Anthem "Communion Prayer"
by Allen Pote

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,
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

Beloveds,

As we end this sacred service, may we carry the words of Jesus Christ in our hearts:

"As God has loved me, so have I loved you. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

May the love of Christ fill your hearts and guide your steps. As you go forth from this place, may you be a beacon God's love, grace, and peace in the world.

Go in the love and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Choral Blessing "A Closing Prayer"
by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
arr. Martha Mier



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

Elizabeth Leddy, Guest Music Director

James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Liturgist – Heather Dominguez

Ushers – Anna Duggan, Elise Cesare & Jimmy Cesare, Linda Brookshire

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 Tune in any time!

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