



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 16, 2025

Welcome

Ringling the Bell

Prelude                      Prelude for Organ, No. 28 by C.H. Rinck

Call to Worship

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in the law of God...

*People: ...for they are like trees planted by streams of water,  
yielding fruit in season.*

Leader: Let us come together, rooted in God's love, seeking God's  
wisdom and grace...

*People: ...that we may thrive in God's presence and grow in  
righteousness.*

Leader: Come, let us worship God, our source of life and strength.

*People: With hearts open and spirits renewed, we rejoice in God's  
everlasting goodness.*

Hymn "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" SPP #33

There's a spirit of love in this place,  
There's a spirit of love in this place,  
You can't see it but it's there,  
just as precious as the air.  
There's a spirit of love in this place,

There's the presence of peace in this room,  
There's the presence of peace in this room,  
In God's tenderness is found  
peace that passes human bounds.  
There's the presence of peace in this room.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.  
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.

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

### Unison Prayer

Holy God, today we come in praise and worship, to grow in faith and fearlessness. We choose you as you always choose us, forgiving, loving, encouraging, comforting us in our need. We seek your presence within us, and we find you there, blessing us with strength to embrace goodness and prevail over the darkness that wells up around us. We have learned that Love is the first and the last word, and we yield to that holy practice, promise, and pledge, that we may build your Kingdom alongside Jesus, fully alert, each moment of our days.

We pray in the sweet name of Jesus, 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                    "Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord"  
Words and Music by Don Besig

## 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

I love to tell the story of unseen things above.  
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it, because I know it's true.  
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

I love to tell the story; it's pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song  
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 1 (NRSV, adapted)

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread  
or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
but their delight is in the law of God,  
and on God's law they meditated day and night.*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
in all that they do, they prosper.*

*The wicked are not so  
but are like the chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,  
for God watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

The Chancel Choir                      "Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains" from *Elijah*  
by Felix Mendelssohn

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26 (TIB)

*Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon – people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.*

*Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:*

*"You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.  
You who hunger now are blessed, for you shall be filled.  
You who weep now are blessed, for you shall laugh.  
You are blessed when people hate you,  
When they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil  
Because of the Chosen One.  
On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad;  
Your reward shall be great in heaven,  
For their ancestors treated the prophets the same way."*

Message      "What have We Learned, After All?"      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

And now our service begins. We take to heart the holy words of scripture which shows us that God's love knows no limit, does not recognize color or culture or tribal variety or wealth or health or any other difference that separates us from our brothers and sisters. May our hearts be calm, fearless, and overflowing with love as we go forth to serve. So be it, amen.

## Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer"

Words and Music by Don Besig

## Ringling of the Bell

## Postlude

"Unexpressed"

Words and Music by John Bucchino



## 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 – Mike Jayne  
Ushers – Gini McLaughlin, Jerry Avolio,  
Lorraine Martin and Marion MacGowan

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

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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”