



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

Welcome

Ringling the Bell

Prelude "Wenn wir in höchsten Nöthen sein" by C.H. Rinck

Call to Worship "The Great Chorus" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

We all live together in a home
in which the rooms are
made of song. Fierce
songs of resistance. Wounded
songs that rise like sirens and
drown out every other song, till
once again, we hear the tendrilled
song of opening. Chants
of freedom. Wild song
of belonging. Sweet lullaby
of trust. What moment cannot
be met through song? Even
the greatest heartache, even
the greatest joy, even
the smallest hope knows
itself not only by its melody, but
by who is willing to sing along and
who is courageous enough to listen.

Hymn "I Would Be True" NCH #492

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live,
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.

I would be prayerful through each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod,
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

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

Unison Prayer

Faithful God, guide us to trust in your goodness,
to delight in your ways and seek your peace.
Teach us patience and faith amidst trials,
to commit our lives to your loving care.
Help us refrain from worry and anger,
resting in your promises and justice.
May our hearts find joy in your presence,
and may we dwell in your eternal peace.
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 "We Shall Overcome"
Words and Adaption by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton,
Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger, Arranged by Roy Ringwald

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

Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead" New Century Hymnal #553

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my works in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit, revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend.
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 37:1-11 (TIB)

A Psalm of David

*Don't be vexed by evildoers, and don't be envious of the corrupt!
They'll soon fade away like the grass,
and wither like unwanted plants.
Trust in YHWH and do good, and you'll dwell in the land of security.
Delight in YHWH, and you'll be given the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to YHWH, and trust in YHWH;
God will take action,
making your vindication as sure as the dawn
and your integrity as bright as noonday.
Be still before YHWH and wait patiently;
don't fret about those who amass great fortunes
and carry on their schemes unchallenged.
Let go of your anger and leave resentment behind.
And stop worrying! It produces nothing but evil,
and evildoers will be cut off.
But those who put their hope in YHWH –
they will inherit the land.*

*A little while longer, and the violent will be no more;
No matter how hard you look for them, they will not be found.
But the gentle will inherit the land and will enjoy abundant peace.*

The Chancel Choir

"All Who Believe"

Lyrics by Trilby Jordan

Music by Lloyd Larson

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38, (TIB)

To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.

When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, give them your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back.

Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do for you? Even 'sinners' lend to other 'sinners,' expecting to be paid in full.

Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called the children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don't judge and you won't be judged. Don't condemn and you won't be condemned. Pardon and you'll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down and shaken together and running over – will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back."

Message

"This Is Not Easy, God!"

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

Let God's peace guide us and God's love sustain us.
Let our hearts trust in God's promises and our lives reflect God's
grace.
As we go forth, let us find joy and strength in God's care.
We commit our ways to God's kingdom, as beacons of God's justice
and peace. It is time for our service to begin.
Amen.

Choral Blessing

"Go Now In Peace"

Lyrics by Don Besig and Nancy Price
Music by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"There Is A Balm In Gilead"

Arranged by Mark Hayes



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 – Kim Thompsen

Ushers – Lorraine Martin, Judie and Mike Jayne

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; 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 Tune in any time!

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

“Namaste”