



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 9, 2025



Welcome

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Mein Herzens, Jesu, meine Lust" by C.H. Rinck

Call to Worship

You call us, O God, and we hear you!
Wind through the trees, patter of rain, a baby's cry,
Muffle of snow under our boots;
In these simple sounds, we hear you.

You call us, O God, like Jeremiah and Isaiah,
Peter and John and Paul, even Joseph of Arimathea.
Yes, and Mary Magdalene, Priscilla, and Lydia, too.
In these many voices, we hear you.

We listen, O God, and we hear you.
We remember to listen for you in the simple sounds
And the many voices of this day, too,
For, like the prophet Isaiah, we will hear your call.

Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" NCH#128

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.

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

Unison Prayer

O God, we gather today in unity, hearts aligned as one,
seeking light and wisdom, until the day is done.
Guide us through the shadows, strengthen us in might,
together we move forward, embracing dawn's new light.

With compassion as our compass and kindness as our creed
we walk this path together, helping every need.
Let our hearts blend in harmony, our spirits soar above,
in unison we offer this a prayer of hope and love. 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 “Dona Nobis Pacem”
 Arranged by Hal Hopson

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 "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult" NCH #172 vs. 1, 3 & 4

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Even if I can speak in all the tongues of the earth—and those of the angels, too—but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecies such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, but do not have love, I have nothing.

Love is patient; Love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; It is never rude or self-seeking; It is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love doesn't rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult,

I put childish ways aside. Now when we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known. There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Chancel Choir

“I Love The Lord” Psalm 116

Music by Hank Beebe

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30 (NRSV)

Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here in your hometown the things that we have heard you did in Capernaum.’ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

“But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine all over the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them were cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Message:

“Love, One More Time”

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

Our worship has ended, but our service begins. Go forth now in the name of God whose love embraces all, even those who appear to be our enemies. How can we choose those whom we will serve? God, who completely knows each of us, says the greatest service of all is to love. Amen.

Choral Blessing

"May the Road" Trad. Irish blessing
Music by James Ahrend

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Love Who You Love" from *A Man of No Importance*
Words by Lynn Ahrends
Music by Stephen Flaherty



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 – Jenna Murphy
Ushers – Bill Houghtalen, Elise and Jimmy Cesare
and Sarah Hartmann

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

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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”