



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

Communion Sunday
March 2, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

The Bell is Rung

Prelude "Trumpet Tune and March"
 by Jeremiah Clarke
 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, adapted from 2 Corinthians 4:2 (TIB)

Because we are given this ministry through God's mercy,
we do not lose heart.

On the contrary, we renounce the shameful deeds
that were kept hidden.

We are not deceitful, nor do we falsify the word of God.
But by speaking the truth plainly, we proffer ourselves
to every person's conscience in the sight of God.

Please remain standing and join in singing this morning's hymn:

Hymn "Like a Healing Stream" Sing! Prayer and Praise #73

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war
Like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea,
like a river strong,
like a gentle rain,
like a healing stream.

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

Unison Prayer

"The World We Live In"

by Mary Oliver

I have refused to live
locked in the orderly house of
reasons and proofs.

The world I live in and believe in
Is wider than that. And anyway,
what's wrong with Maybe?

You wouldn't believe what once or
twice I have seen. I'll just
tell you this:

Only if there are angels in your head will you
ever, possibly, see one.

Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

Friends, please rise if you wish.

Hymn "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

NCH #182

We have come at Christ's own bidding,
to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples
for a sign both plain and clear.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

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 – “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.

The Chancel Choir Anthem “I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”
by Everett Titcomb

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 (The Inclusive Bible Version)

About eight days after saying this, Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up onto a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzling white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory—and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let's set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!" Peter didn't really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice which said, "This is my Own, My Chosen One. Listen to him."

When the voice finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.

Message

"Listen to Jesus"

Rev. Rebecca West

The Chancel Choir Anthem

"Crowded Table"

Words and Music by Natalie Hemby,
Lori McKenna, and Brandi Carlisle
Arranged by Andrea Ramsey

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

May the glory of Jesus Christ, as revealed in his transfiguration, shine upon us and transform our lives. As Peter, John, and James witnessed his divine radiance, may we too be filled with awe and wonder at his presence. In moments of clarity and confusion, may his light guide our path and strengthen our faith. As we go forth to serve, may we be empowered to love and spread peace, carrying the brilliance of his grace into the world.
Amen.

Choral Blessing

"Communion Prayer"
by Allen Pope

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"Migratory V"
Music and Lyrics by Adam Guettel



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

Sean Cameron, Music Director

James Cesare, Trumpet Soloist

Liturgist – Jenna Murphy

Ushers – Stacey York, Roxy York, 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 Tune in any time!

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