



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 9, 2025



Welcome

Ringing the Bell

Prelude          Prelude for Organ, No. 14 by C.H. Rinck

## Call to Worship

Present.  
Here. In between the breaths.  
Breathe. Pause. Breathe.  
There. In the "pause" ...  
Be still...  
Breathe. Pause. Breathe.  
Know how you are Loved.  
Breathe. Pause. Breathe.  
Love.

## Hymn "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days" NCH # 211

Lord Jesus, who through forty days  
for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,  
and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,  
and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere,  
in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,  
and through this Passiontide,  
Yes, evermore, in life and death,  
O Christ, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life  
of suffering shall be past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.

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

Unison Prayer: Adapted from "Roll Back the Stone" by Joseph Gilmore

If Easter is a rock heaved away, then  
Lent is groping for the offending boulder.  
Where, where, where in us are we entombed,  
deep, dark down,  
buried in our own years,  
wrapped in our own disappointments,  
anointed with our own fear?  
If thou knowest, then come, we beseech thee.  
Enter the twilight corridors of our deepest self,  
where a small child remains afraid in the night:  
where a stranger hunches, grieving, over something,  
someone lost;  
an unknown voice chants a strange and  
wonderful story in a low and  
beguiling whisper.

Listen. Between the breaths. Pause. Be still...  
the beguiling whisper is there.  
[Pause]

Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

*Friends, please rise if you wish.*

Passing of the Peace of Christ

In John 14:27, Jesus said, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Paul, in Philippians 4:7 adds, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."  
(cont'd)

The peace we offer one another is an expression, a breath of the peace that Jesus spoke of to the world. Breathe, Pause, Take a breath, and from deep inside the beguiling whispering voice of God in your being, let us offer one another a sign of that peace... that peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

And now, to one another...

*Please be seated.*

The Chancel Choir            "Members, One of Another"  
Words and Music by Hank Beebe

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.

Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" NCH #190

Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus within my mind I see  
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess –  
the wonders of Christ's glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

First Reading James 1:1-4

From James, a servant of God and Savior Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the diaspora:

Greetings. Think of it as pure joy, my sisters and brothers, whenever you face trials of any sort. You understand that your faith is put to the test only to make you patient, but patience too has its practical results – it's to make you fully mature and lacking in nothing.

The Chancel Choir "Give Peace Again"  
Words and Music by James Ahrend

Gospel Reading      Luke 4:1-13    (The Inclusive Bible Version)

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and She led him into the desert for 40 days, where he was tempted by the Tempter. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Tempter said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.' "

Then the Tempter took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Tempter said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it:

'You will worship the most high God;  
God alone will you adore.' "

Then the Tempter led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "if you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it,

'God will tell the angels to take care of you;  
with their hands they'll support you,  
that you may never stumble on a stone.' "

Jesus said to the devil in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.' "

When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

Message

"Being Tempted"

Rev. Jeanne Baum

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. Jeanne Baum

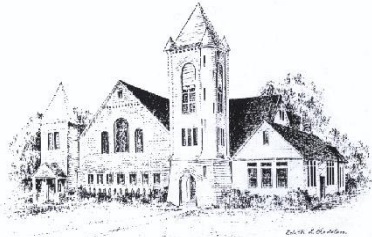
Choral Blessing

"A Closing Prayer"  
Words and Music by Don Besig

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"This Endris Night" 15th century tune  
Adapted by Sarah Quartel



## 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. Jeanne Baum, Guest Preacher  
Sean Cameron, Music Director  
Liturgist – Bill Houghtalen  
Ushers – Lorraine Severin and Lorraine Martin,  
Elise and James 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](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

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

“Namaste”