



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 23, 2025



Welcome

Ringling the Bell

Prelude      Prelude for Organ, No. 41 by C.H. Rinck

Call to Worship: Adapted from Isaiah 55:1-9

"All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!  
You who have no money,  
come, buy food and eat!  
Come, buy drink and milk,  
without money, without price!

Heed me, and you will eat well,  
you will delight in rich fare;  
bend your ear and come to me,  
listen that you may have abundant life..."

Friends, come. All. And let us join the banquet of God's love  
in our worship and prayer and song.

Hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" NCH #23

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There's no place where earthly sorrows  
are more felt than in God's heaven;  
there's no place where earthly failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our minds;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
we would gladly trust God's word;  
and our lives would show thanksgiving  
for the goodness of our God.

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

Unison Prayer: Adapted from Psalms 63:1-8

Dear God, you are our God.  
We seek you.  
Our souls thirst for you,  
    as in a dry and weary land.  
We look toward you, as we know you,  
    beholding your power and presence and love.  
We ask for your help and your guidance  
    as we bring our hearts to you.  
And we bring your love to all.

Assurance of God's Love

God's grace and mercy abounds.  
God is with us in the change.  
God's everlasting arms embrace us.  
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.  
Amen.

*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      "All Who Believe"  
Lyrics by Trilby Jordan  
Music by Lloyd Larson

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    "Just As I Am"    NCH #207

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called inviting me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down,  
Now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

First Reading: Psalm 63:1-8 (TIB)

YHWH, my God,  
You are the One I seek.  
My soul thirst for you,  
my body longs for you  
in this dry and weary land  
where there is no water.  
So I look to you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and glory;  
because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.

And so I bless you while I live;  
in your Name I lift up my hands.  
My soul will be sated as with a sumptuous feast,  
and with euphoric cries I will praise you.  
I remember you when I'm in bed,  
through sleepless nights I meditate on you,  
Because you are my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings, I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
Your mighty hand upholds me.

The Chancel Choir      "Child of God"

Words and Music by James Ahrend

## Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9 (TIB)

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, "Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways."

Jesus told this parable: "There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out, looking for fruit on it, but didn't find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, 'Look here! For three years now I've come out in search of fruit on this fig tree, and I found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?'

"In reply, the vine dresser said, 'Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.'"

Message from Carl MacGowan, Congregational Voice

## 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

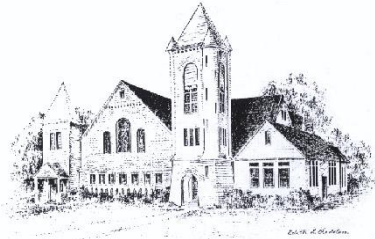
As we go forth to bear good fruit,  
May God be with us in our hunger and thirst.  
May our ears be ever inclined, listening for the good news.  
May praises be on our lips even in the bleakest valley  
And May the God of peace equip us with every good thing  
to carry out God's desire for the world.  
Amen.

Choral Blessing    “May the Road” *Traditional Irish Blessing*  
 Music by James Ahrend

## Ringling of the Bell

**Postlude**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace  
(Prayer of St. Francis)"  
Words and Music by Sebastian Temple



## 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!  
Carl MacGowan, Congregational Voice  
Sean Cameron, Music Director  
Liturgist – Karen Maust

Ushers – Gail Acker, Roberta Smith, Sarah Hartmann & Susan Ryan

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](http://www.sayvilleucc.org); [www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc](https://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](http://www.echimestv.org) Tune in any time!

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