



# Interfaith

## Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 7:30 P.M.

Hosted by Congregation Sukkat Shalom  
1001 Central Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091



Sponsored by  
New Trier Multifaith Alliance  
[www.ntmalliance.org](http://www.ntmalliance.org)

With pleasure we greet and welcome all  
who have gathered for this time of worship.

May God's presence be real,  
meeting us at our point of Thanksgiving.

Please make yourself known to worshipers  
around you and to the leaders of worship.

---

Please silence all electronic devices.

# Order of Service

## Opening Hymn

*Hinei Ma Tov*

Interfaith Choir

## Holiday Greetings and Welcome

Betsy Katten  
*President, Congregation Sukkat Shalom*

## Recitation of Poem

Zainab Benjelloun  
*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, MCC Academy*

I am neither Christian, nor Jewish, nor Muslim  
I am not of the East, nor of the West. . . .  
I have put duality away, I have seen the two worlds as one;  
One I seek, One I know, One I see, One I call.

*Divan-i-Shams-i-Tabrizi, II*

## Reading from Scripture

### A BAHÁ'Í PRAYER

Helen Butler  
*Bahá'í Community of Evanston*

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

Thou art the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

## Musical Selection

Children's Choir  
*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*

*I'll Walk with You*

Music: Reid Nibley Text: Carol Lynn Pearson

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

(in English and Zulu)

Note: This South African song played an important role in the struggle against apartheid.  
In recent years, many denominations have included it in their hymnals.

## Readings from Scripture

### A READING FROM THE QUR'ÁN

Chaplain Tahera Ahmad  
*Director of Interfaith Engagement*  
*Northwestern University*

*Surah 39: Az-Zumar ("The Troops" or "The Throngs") Verses 73–75*

As those who are conscientious of their Lord, they will be driven to Paradise in groups until they reach it while its gates have been opened and its keepers (the angels) say, "Peace be upon you; you have become those of glad tidings; so enter it for eternity."

And they will say, "Praise be to our Lord who has fulfilled His promise and has made us

inherit the earth so we may settle in Paradise wherever we will. Indeed this is the reward for those who act with righteousness.

And you will see the angels surrounding the throne and exhausting the praises of their Lord. And they will be judged with truth and it will be said, all praises be to the Lord of the Worlds.

### A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Rev. Peter Hawkinson  
*Senior Pastor*  
*Winnetka Covenant Church*

*Philippians 4: 4–9*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## A JEWISH PRAYER

Marilyn Schonthal  
*Congregation Sukkat Shalom*

*Modim Anach Nu Lach*

For the expanding grandeur of creation,  
worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond  
galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging  
our imaginations, *modim anachnu lach*.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides,  
its sunsets and seasons, *modim anachnu lach*.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and  
surprises, its hopes and achievements, *modim  
anachnu lach*.

For human community, our common past  
and future hope, our oneness transcending all  
separation, our capacity to work for peace and  
justice in the midst of hostility and oppression,  
*modim anachnu lach*.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith  
without fanaticism, for understanding of  
views not shared, *modim anachnu lach*.

For all who have labored and suffered for a  
fairer world, who have lived so that others  
might live in dignity and freedom, *modim  
anachnu lach*.

For human liberties and sacred rites: for  
opportunities to change and grow, to affirm  
and choose, *modim anachnu lach*.

We pray that we may live not by our fears  
but by our hopes, not by our words but by  
our deeds.

## Recitation of Poem

*Chai O'Clock*

Saarah Bhajji, Nazish Desai, Faiza Desai, Aasiyah Bhajji  
*Muslim Community Center Youth*

## A Hymn (Psalm 138)

*With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring*

Interfaith Choir

## Opening Remarks

### and Introduction to Keynote Speaker

Vic Doucette  
*Co-President  
New Trier Multifaith Alliance*

## Keynote Address

Rabbi Michael Balinsky  
*Executive Vice President (ret.)  
Chicago Board of Rabbis*

## Musical Selection

*Down By the Riverside* (trad. Spiritual)

Interfaith Choir

## Announcements and Thank You's

Kenny Lyonswright  
*Cantorial Soloist*  
*Congregation Sukkat Shalom*

## Litany of Thanksgiving

Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun  
*Senior Pastor*  
*Winnetka Congregational Church*

One: Within the centering embrace of our shared worship,

**Many: Gather us, O God.**

One: Over and above the din of cleaving impulses, partisanship,  
and parochialism into which humanity can all too easily sink,

**Many: Attune us, O God, to the still-small yet tectonic power of your  
unyielding call to justice, to mercy, to love.**

One: Within the deep well of every human heart—where joys and sorrows,  
despair and hope, faith and fear inseparably embroil,

**Many: Inspire a healing and heavenly peace to rise and re-center us.**

One: Within the teeming diversity of our religions, complexions, ethnicities,  
genders, orientations, languages, and nationalities,

**Many: Empower us, O God, to perceive a common cause for celebration, rather than  
division; and a beautifully blended tapestry, rather than disparate threads.**

One: When our prayers appear to go unanswered, or when personal or  
global circumstances may warrant worry more reflexively than hope,

**Many: Embolden us, O God, to rise and to give thanks for all that is good,  
for all that is right!**

One: Illumine us with the abiding knowledge that you, O God,  
are ever present, ever faithful;

**Many: And that your love is forever beside and within and among us. Amen.**

## Recessional

*Hinei Ma Tov*

Instrumental

# Keynote Speaker

## Rabbi Michael Balinsky

Rabbi Michael Balinsky recently retired as the Executive Vice President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, an organization representing 180 rabbis from all Jewish streams.

He is a past president of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago and serves on the Board of the Parliament of the World's Religions. He is also an active participant in

a number of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim interfaith initiatives.

Rabbi Balinsky served as a Hillel director for 22 years, over 19 of them spent as the Director of the Louis and Saerree Fiedler Hillel Center at Northwestern University, following service for some two and a half years as the Associate Director of Hillel at the University of Michigan.

---

Please join us in the hospitality room for a reception immediately following the service.

All donations received this evening will be provided to the New Trier Food Pantry.  
Checks should be made payable to the New Trier Multifaith Alliance.

Baskets are located in the lobby to receive your contribution after the service.

---

## Acknowledgements

In addition to our deepest gratitude to the representatives of clergy and members of Faith communities who participated in the program—and whose names and affiliations are provided in these pages—we wish to express our warmest thanks to the members of individual choirs who lent their voices to our joyous interfaith choir this evening.

We wish to express special thanks as well to the music directors of various houses of worship who added their considerable talents and expertise to the choir. They include:

Sheila Duran	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Susan Friedman	Temple Jeremiah
Dimitri German	Winnetka Covenant Church
Van Gilmer	Bahá'í House of Worship
Christian Sterling	Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Catholic Church

# New Trier Multifaith Alliance

The New Trier Multifaith Alliance, with a history dating to the founding of an interchurch (ecumenical) organization in 1967, brings together 16 faith communities to encourage wider interfaith communication for the enlightenment of all, shares programs and other activities of common interests, encourages on-going conversations and relationships among clergy, leaders, and laity, and works together in service to the wider communities that surround us.

The Alliance meets regularly throughout the year to learn about, honor and respect one another's spiritual beliefs and practices, while engaging together in constructive dialogue and community action.

This annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving is offered as a gift to the community, so that all can gather in the spirit of harmony and fellowship in rendering thanks for our many blessings.

Should you wish to learn more about and become involved in the work of the New Trier Multifaith Alliance, please contact your faith community's clergy leaders or Alliance representative or visit our website.

## Members

Bahá'í Faith  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Church of Christ, Scientist  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Church of the Holy Comforter  
Congregation Hakafa  
Congregation Sukkat Shalom  
Hands of Peace  
Lake Shore Unitarian Society  
Muslim Community Center of Morten Grove  
Saints Faith, Hope and Charity  
St. Francis Xavier  
St. Philip the Apostle  
Temple Jeremiah  
Winnetka Congregational Church  
Winnetka Covenant Church  
Winnetka Presbyterian Church

New Trier Multifaith Alliance  
PO Box 74  
Kenilworth, IL 60043

<http://ntmalliance.org/>

