



2020 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

SPONSORED BY THE NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7:30 P.M.

Order of Service

Musical Selection:

“Lead, Me Lord” by Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Jill Hunt
Piano
Sanctuary Choir
Winnetka Congregational Church

Holiday Greetings and Welcome

Vic Doucette
President
New Trier Multifaith Alliance
Representative
Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish, Wilmette

Responsive Reading:

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 cacophony 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 separate and soothing peace to rise and to calm us;
a peace not of this world, but of the heavenly realm beyond,
which forever seeks to enter in.**

One: In the teeming diversity of our religions, races, ethnicities,
genders, orientations, languages, and nationalities,

**Many: Empower us, O God, to perceive cause for celebration,
not division; and a blended and beautiful tapestry, rather than
disparate threads.**

One: Even when our prayers seem 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,
all that is right, all that is loving.**

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

**Many: And that you are: ever among, ever between,
ever within us. Amen.**

Thanksgiving Reflection

(via video)

Dilnaz Waraich

Chair, Interfaith & Outreach Committee

Muslim Community Center, Chicago / Morton Grove

Reading from Islamic Scripture

Selection from *Qur'án: Surah Hujarath v.10–13*

Abdul (Arabic) & Fatima (English)

Students, MCC Academy

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

The believers are but family, so make settlement between your family. And fear God/Allah that you may receive mercy.

O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent — then it is those who are the wrongdoers.

O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear God/Allah ; indeed, God/Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful.

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of God/Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, God/Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.

Musical Selection:

“Here Am I” by Van Gilmer

Adult Choir

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

Adult Choir

Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette

Reading from Jewish Scripture

Selection from *Mishkan Tefila: A Reform Siddur*
(adapted from Eugene Pickett)

Rabbi Rachel Heaps

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

For the expanding Grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, finding us with awe and challenging our imaginations, *Modim Anachnu Lach*, we give thanks to You, God.

For the fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons, *Modim Anachnu Lach*, we give thanks to You, God.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements, *Modim Anachnu Lach*, we give thanks to You, God.

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*, we give thanks to You, God.

For high hopes and mobile causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared, *Modim Anachnu Lach*, we give thanks to You, God.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lives so that others might live in dignity and freedom. For human liberties and sacred rites: for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose, *Modim Anachnu Lach*, we give thanks to You, God.

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

Blessed are You, Oh God, Your Name is Goodness, and You are worthy of thanksgiving.

Musical Selection:

Modim Anachnu Lach

(from Shabbat evening and morning service)

Music and English Translation by Beth Shafer

Cantor Susan Lewis Friedman

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

Recitation of Poem:

“Missing Church: A Prayer”

(via video)

John Alba Cutler

Assoc. Professor of English and Latinx Studies

Northwestern University

Member

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

1 Cor. 12: 27

O Lord, how I miss the light
filtering in the chapel windows
on Sunday mornings,
footsteps and kids’ laughter echoing
from the gym,
hymn books at right angles
taking a breath like a diver
before plunging into cold water.

I miss the chatter:
“How are you feeling this morning?”
“You look so beautiful in that dress!”
“Did you hear the news?”
“How are things at work?”
“She’s getting so big!”
and “I’m sorry. How can I help?”
I miss seeing and being seen.
I miss every baby crying during the sacrament,
every parent giving chase to every toddler
running up to the choir seats,
every metal chair clanging
at the worst possible time,
waking up every teenager and dad
getting valuable church sleep.
I hunger for your supper, Lord,
for the bread of your body,
a meal meant to be shared.
And I thirst for the water,
let it spring up in us forever.

I miss how we sang,
laughed, cried together.
I miss children crowded at the edge
of the baptismal font,
the peaceful hush of every confirmation.
I miss hearing every infant’s name
and every parent’s holy blessing.

I even miss complaining, Lord.
I miss every sermon that was too long
or not long enough,
every comment in Sunday School
that was too conservative
or too liberal,
every awkward testimony
or poorly-paced hymn—

I miss them the way a person feels
an ache in an amputated limb;
because we are, after all, one body;
we are, after all, each other’s eyes
and ears and strong hands
and fast feet and sturdy shoulders.

Restore us again, Lord,
because we are missing
so much.
Give us back our church, I pray.
Give us back our body.
Give us back to each other.

Reading from Christian Scripture

Selection from *New Testament: Colossians 3: 12–15*

Fr. Wayne Watts

Pastor

Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish, Wilmette

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Musical Selection:

"Disciples of Tomorrow" (Have You Heard God's Voice?)

by Jacqueline G. Jones (arr. Richard Clemmit)

Adult Choir

Christ Episcopal Church, Winnetka

Reading from Bahá'í Scripture

Selection from *Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Helen Butler

Member

Bahá'í Community of Evanston

O ye friends of God!

Cleanse ye your eyes, so that ye behold no man as different from yourselves. See ye no strangers; rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness. And in this new and wondrous age, the Holy Writings say that we must be at one with every people. . . . For each of the creatures is a sign of God, and it was by the grace of the Lord and His power that each did step into the world; therefore they are not strangers, but in the family; not aliens, but friends, and to be treated as such.

Wherefore must the loved ones of God associate in affectionate fellowship with stranger and friend alike, showing forth to all the utmost loving-kindness, disregarding the degree of their capacity, never asking whether they deserve to be loved. In every instance let the friends be considerate and infinitely kind.

O Lord, shower upon all the outpourings of Thy mercy, rain down upon all the waters of Thy grace. Make them to grow as beauteous plants in the garden of heaven, and from the full and brimming clouds of Thy bestowals and out of the deep pools of Thine abounding grace make Thou this garden to flower and keep it ever green and lustrous, ever fresh and shimmering and fair.

Thou art verily the Mighty, the Exalted, the Powerful, He Who alone, in the heavens and on the earth, abideth unchanged. There is none other God save Thee, the Lord of manifest tokens and signs.

Musical Selection:

"Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood (arr. Barrett & Rao)

Adult Choir

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

Adult Choir

Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette

Keynote Address:
“Spiritual Lessons from the Year 2020”

Steve Sarowitz
Founder & Chairman, Paylocity
Core member
Global Governance Forum
Member
Bahá’í Community of Highland Park

Musical Selection:
“Oseh Shalom” by Jeff Klepper (arr. Jacobson)

Kenneth Lyonswright
Cantorial Soloist
Congregation Sukkat Shalom, Wilmette

Closing Remarks

Vic Doucette
President
New Trier Multifaith Alliance

“Go In Peace”

Students, MCC Academy
Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

Free Will Offering

We encourage food or financial donations to the New Trier Township Food Pantry.

To learn where and how to donate, please visit www.newtriertownship.org
and click on “Donate”

Fellowship

We warmly invite you to remain after the service to exchange greetings and join in informal conversation during our 10-minute Virtual Fellowship Time.

Acknowledgements

Technical Direction: Rabbi Rachel Heaps

Musical Direction: Julian Chin, Richard Clemmit, Cantor Susan Friedman,
Van Gilmer, Jill Hunt, Matthew Hunter, Kenneth Lyonswright

Virtual Program: Thomas Murphy, Waldek Ziolkowski

Communications: Junia Hedberg

Planning: Greg Richards, Committee Chair
Additional Thanksgiving Planning Committee Members
Sam Bawamin, Rick Duran, Jena Khadem Khodadad, Julie Orr,
Jan Smith, Puran Stevens

On the New Trier Multifaith Alliance

Originally the Winnetka Interfaith Council—with a history dating back to the founding of an interchurch (ecumenical) organization in 1967—the New Trier Multifaith Alliance brings together 16 Faith communities in a continuing endeavor to encourage interfaith communication for the enlightenment of all; to jointly participate in programs and other activities of common interest; to encourage meaningful conversations and relationships among clergy, leaders, and laity; and to work together in service to the wider community.

Member Faith Communities

Bahá'í Faith
Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of Christ, Scientist
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette
Church of the Holy Comforter
Congregation Hakafa
Congregation Sukkat Shalom
Hands of Peace
Muslim Community Center of Morton Grove
Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Catholic Church
Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish
Temple Jeremiah
Winnetka Congregational Church
Winnetka Covenant Church
Winnetka Presbyterian Church

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