

NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022
7:30 P.M.

Keynote Speaker
REV. STEPHEN AVINO
Executive Director
Parliament of the World's Religions

Winnetka Congregational Church
725 Pine Street, Winnetka



An Annual Event Sponsored By The
NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE
2022 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7:30 P.M.

Order of Service

MUSICAL SELECTION:

Now Thank We All Our God, by Johann Sebastian Bach
Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

Jill Hunt

Director of Music

HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND WELCOME

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

Greg Richards

Co-Chair of the Interfaith Understanding Committee
New Trier Multifaith Alliance

BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR*

Rabbi Paul F. Cohen
Senior Rabbi
Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

RECITATION FROM JEWISH SCRIPTURE:

A Psalm of Thanksgiving: Psalm 100

Rabbi Paul F. Cohen

Senior Rabbi

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

Mizmor li-Todah

Sing out to The Creator, all the earth,
Worship the All-Seeing One in joy,
Approach God's presence with a ringing cry!

Know that The Abundant One is God,
the one who made us, our beginning and our source.
We are God's kin, the flock God feeds.

Enter God's gates with thankful prayers,
God's courtyards with a song of praise.
Give thanks to God, give blessing to the Name,

For the love of The Compassionate will last forever,
God's faithful care, throughout all generations.

MUSICAL SELECTION (ALL SING):

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Jill Hunt

Director of Music

Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting
bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

RECITATION FROM ISLAMIC SCRIPTURE

From the Qur'an:

Chapter 1: Al-Fatihah (The Opening)

Verses 1-7

Saleh Akram

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reciting the Arabic)

Maria Ali

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reading in English translation)

With the name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the Very-Merciful.

Praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds.

The All-Merciful, the Very Merciful.

The Master of the Day of Judgment.

You alone do we worship, and from You alone do we seek help.

Guide us on the straight path.

The path of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not of those who have incurred Your wrath, nor of those who have gone astray.

Chapter 2: Al-Baqarah (The Cow)

Verses 151-53

Saleh Akram

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reciting the Arabic)

Maria Ali

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reading in English translation)

As also We have sent in your midst a messenger from among you,
Who recites to you Our verses, and purifies you, and teaches you the Book
and the wisdom, and teaches you what you did not know.

So remember Me, and I will remember you, and be thankful to Me,
And be not ungrateful to Me.

O you who believe, seek help through patience
and prayer. Surely Allah is with those who are patient.

RECITATION: A CHRISTIAN LITANY OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Allison Bengfort
(composed by Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun) Pastor

St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilmette

Leader: Within the centering embrace of our shared worship,

Many: Gather us, O God.

Leader: Over and above the discord and indifference
Into which humanity can all too easily descend,

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

Leader: Within the well of every human heart—where joy and sorrow,
Despair and hope, faith and fear inseparably embroil—

**Many: Inspire a peace not of this world,
But of the heavenly realm beyond,
Which forever seeks to enter in.**

Leader: Within humanity's teeming diversity,

**Many: Empower us, O God, to perceive a beauteous tapestry,
Rather than disparate threads.**

Leader: When our prayers appear to go unanswered, or when
Circumstances warrant worry more than hope,

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

Leader: Illumine us with the abiding knowledge
That you, O Holy One:

**Many: Are ever among us,
Ever between us
Ever within us.
Amen.**

READING FROM BAHÁ'Í SCRIPTURE

*Prayer for America revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá:
at 1912 Chicago convention of Bahá'í Temple Unity*

George Davis
Director of Activities
*Bahá'í House of Worship
Wilmette*

O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of Thy glad-tidings.

O God! Let this American democracy become glorious in spiritual degrees even as it has aspired to material degrees, and render this just government victorious. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Most Great Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world.

O God! This American nation is worthy of Thy favors and is deserving of Thy mercy. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal.

MUSICAL SELECTION (COMBINED CHOIRS):

Anthem: *Total Praise*, by Richard Smallwood

Van Gilmer
Director of Music
Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, You give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, You give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

BUDDHIST REFLECTION ON BLESSINGS OF GRATITUDE

Asayo Koyo Horibe

President

Buddhist Council of the Midwest

This is a time when people gather for Thanksgiving.
May you try to recognize your blessings and gifts of kindness.
May you acknowledge your blessings and gifts of kindness.
May you appreciate your blessings and gifts of kindness.
Be present and aware that we are all one.
May this gratitude be expressed through my body speech and mind.
With infinite kindness to the past, infinite service to the present, infinite responsibility to the future.

RECITATION:

Rabbi Nate Crane

A Jewish Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rabbi

(Inspired by Alden Solovy's "Faith Reunion") *Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah, Wilmette*

Hinei mah tov umanayim shevet achim gam yachad?

How good is it when siblings dwell together in unity?

Let this moment be a festival of gratitude, a united assembly, a sacred reunion.

Makor Shel Or – Source of Light,

We dream of holiness. Each of us petitions for compassion and dignity.

Together we will construct a world of righteousness and harmony.

Makor shel Hesed – Source of Lovingkindness,

We seek protection under Your gracious shelter.

To invigorate harmony among us and within us.

Kol Dimamah Dakah – Whisper of Creation,

Source and Sanctuary, Let our hopes resonate in the vibration of our yearnings.

Hashiveinu Eilekha – Help Us to Return,

Guide us to renew ourselves from crisis and dislocation.

Oseh Shalom – May the One who creates peace in heaven make peace on Earth for all of us.

Amen.

MUSICAL SELECTION (COMBINED CHOIRS):

Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Victoria Marshall

Assistant Director of Music

Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies, over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise,
This our joyful hymn, our hymn of praise..

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Junia Hedberg

Winnetka Congregational Church Representative to NTMA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rev. Stephen Avino

Executive Director

Parliament of the World's Religions

MUSICAL SELECTION (ALL SING):

Now Thank We all Our God

Jill Hunt

Director of Music

Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

MUSICAL SELECTION (POSTLUDE):

Now Thank We all Our God, by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Jill Hunt

Director of Music

Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

Free Will Offering

We encourage food or financial donations to the New Trier Township Food Pantry. Tonight's offering will be donated to the New Trier Food Pantry. Please make checks payable to NTMA.

Fellowship

We warmly invite you to remain after the service to exchange greetings and join in fellowship.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:

Rev. Stephen Avino serves as the Executive Director of the Parliament of the World's Religions, the world's premier interfaith convening organization, having become a member of staff at the Parliament in 2012. In the years since, he has remained deeply committed to the success of the global interfaith movement, serving as key organizer for the 2015, 2018, and 2021 Parliaments Convening in Salt Lake City, Toronto, and Virtually. He is now engaged in planning the 2023 Parliament Convening in Chicago.

An avid seeker of knowledge and a dedicated person of faith, Rev. Avino earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary in 2015 and was ordained through the Independent Catholic Movement in 2019. He resides in Chicago, where he continues his strong advocacy for the legacy of the Parliament and an ever more inclusive interreligious movement.

*BLOWING THE SHOFAR:

Blowing the shofar was a well-known multipurpose call in biblical times: it announced the Creation, the Revelation on Mount Sinai, the exhortations of the prophets. It proclaimed a military advance and called for a military retreat. It marked calendrical occasions. It announced the Word of God. One day, it will proclaim the messianic redemption.

Blowing the shofar is commanded in the Torah (Numbers 29:1). It has two principal purposes: one, as a call to war (Numbers 10: 1–10), and two, as a proclamation of freedom (Leviticus 25:9). In personal spiritual terms, the first sees individuals struggling with themselves, battling inner enemies, experiencing guilt for wrongdoing; the second sees the human soul, cleansed of its transgressions, committing to a new regimen filled with positive possibilities.

Acknowledgements

Musical Direction:

Jill Hunt, Director of Music/Organist, Winnetka Congregational Church; organist and pianist for the service

Van Gilmer, Director of Music, Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette; director of choir

Victoria Marshall, Assistant Director of Music, Winnetka Congregation Church; director of choir

Participating Choirs:

Winnetka Congregational Church
Christ Episcopal Church, Winnetka
Temple Jeremiah, Northfield
Bahai House of Worship, Wilmette
Winnetka Covenant Church
Congregation Sukkot Shalom

Communications:

Junia Hedberg, Thomas Murphy, Greg Richards, Waldek Ziolkowski

Planning:

Junia Hedberg and members of Winnetka Congregational Church

NTMA Interfaith Committee Members

Anjum Ali, Sam Bawamin, Van Gilmer, Junia Hedberg, Carol Jansson, Jena Khadem Khodadad, Thomas Murphy, Greg Richards, Jan Smith

Hymns:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Text: Henry Van Dyke;
Music: Beethoven
For the Beauty of the Earth - John Rutter
Now We Thank We All Our God - Text: Martin Rinkart; Music: Johann Cruger

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 15 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 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



New Trier Multifaith Alliance
PO Box 74
Kenilworth, IL 60043
<http://ntmalliance.org/>