

New Trier Multifaith Alliance



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023
7:30 P.M.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2727 Lake Ave, Wilmette

Teicher



AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY THE
NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE

2023 INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:30 P.M.

Order of Service

Prelude

*Music by **Deborah Palmer and Simon Updegraff**
accompanied by **Ross Updegraff**
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward*

Holiday Greetings and Welcome

Brian Crane
*Bishop
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward*

Thomas Murphy
*Interfaith Understanding Committee
New Trier Multifaith Alliance*

Musical Selections:

"We Are Different"

by Patricia Kelsey Graham

LDS Primary Choir

conducted by **Rebekeh Kamae**

accompanied by **Mary Hinckley**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward

I know you, and you know me.
We are as diff'rent as the sun and the sea.
I know you, and you know me,
[Chorus]: And that's the way it's supposed to be.

I help you, and you help me.
We learn from problems, and we're starting to see.
I help you, and you help me,
[Chorus]: And that's the way it's supposed to be.

I love you, and you love me.
We reach together for the best we can be.
I love you, and you love me,
[Chorus]: And that's the way it's supposed to be.

"I'll Walk With You"

by Carol Lynn Pearson and Reid Nibley

If you don't walk as most people do,
Some people walk away from you,
But I won't! I won't!

If you don't talk as most people do,
Some people talk and laugh at you,
But I won't! I won't!
I'll walk with you. I'll talk with you.
That's how I'll show my love for you.
Jesus walked away from none.
He gave his love to ev'ryone.

So I will! I will!

Jesus blessed all he could see,
Then turned and said, "Come, follow me."
And I will! I will!
I will! I will!

I'll walk with you. I'll talk with you.
That's how I'll show my love for you.

A Jewish Reflection on Gratitude through Pain

Rabbi Brian Immerman

Senior Rabbi

Congregation Sukkat Shalom, Wilmette

It is good to give thanks to the source of life for their love is everlasting. (*Psalm 136:1*)

On a chilly fall day, I sit on a bench warmed by the sunshine.

Watching the people walking by.

Some march to a beat, some race around, some walk slowly, others deliberately.

A parent clutches her child's hand so as not to lose her.

A dog is taking a man for a walk.

A burning red leaf falls to the ground, the wind sweeps it up and it vanishes.

Another, then another.

Many don't notice, but I do. I see divine miracles surrounding me,

reminding me that I am standing on holy ground.

Hineini, Here I am, I say. (*Exodus 3:4*)

Where are they all going?

Careers they love or jobs they loathe,

warm homes or cold tents,

loving embraces or lonely hearts,

all way stations on their journeys.

I strain to see a smile in the crowd of stern and serious.

So I smile for them, for I know that each of them is created in the divine image.

I smile because I get to witness the divine face to face.

If only they knew.

My smile fades as I recall the images of the divine I have seen recently.

Horrors wrought by the human hand.

Children, parents, grandparents, destruction on a scale not witnessed in three generations.

Suffering of immense proportions.

Each one a human being created in the divine image, not better than any other,

and each returning to the Earth as the dust from which they were formed.

Two children laugh as they walk by, and a smile returns to my face,

their small faces marveling at the world around them.

They know my secret, to them each moment is a gift.

Gratitude and pain.

And Gratitude

and pain and Gratitude.

A couple forever dancing throughout our lives.

My bench has grown cold with no sun to warm it.

A burning red leaf falls into my lap and

I remember that I, too, am created in the divine image,
that I can choose to see a world full of miracles and even create miracles myself,
even among the suffering.

I can still conjure words of gratitude.

It is good to give thanks to the source of life for their love is everlasting. (*Psalm 136:1*)

Recitation from Islamic Scripture

From the Qur'an:

Surah 93: Ad-Duha (The Morning Light)

Verses 1–10

Saleh Akram

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reciting the Arabic)

Sema Bawamia

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

(reading in English translation)

In the name of the Lord, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.

By the morning sunlight, and the night when it falls still!

Your Lord, O Prophet, has not abandoned you, nor has He become displeased.

Indeed what is to come will be better for you than what has gone by.
And surely your Lord will give so much to you that you will be pleased.

Did He not find you as an orphan and then sheltered you?
Did He not find you searching and then guide you?
And did He not find you needy then satisfy your needs?

So do not oppress the orphan, nor repulse the beggar.
And proclaim the blessings of your Lord (and show your gratitude).

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.

Unison Congregational Hymn

“Let All Things Now Living”

by Katherine Davis

conducted by **Sheila Duran**

Music Director

accompanied by **Mary Hinckley**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
‘Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,
The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine,
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
‘Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

Reading from Bahá’í Scripture

Prayer revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
at All-Souls Church, Lincoln Center, Chicago

Van Gilmer

Music Director

Bahá’í House of Worship, Wilmette

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.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Junia Hedberg

New Trier Multifaith Alliance

Keynote Address

Chaplain Tahera Ahmad

*Associate University Chaplain and Director of Interfaith Engagement
Northwestern University*

Musical Selection

“Offertory”

by John Ness Beck

Interfaith Adult Combined Choir

conducted by **Sheila Duran**

Music Director

accompanied by **Mary Hinckley**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward

With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man,
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Unison Closing Benediction

Adapted from "Interfaith Benediction"
by Gary Kowalski

Rev. Jeffrey L. Phillips

Acting Senior Pastor
Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka

Gathered from varied faiths,

We give thanks for our common dream:

Homes and schools where children thrive,

Neighborhoods that are safe and clean,

Societies rich in colors and cultures,

A beloved community where no one is expendable.

As we leave this place, we pledge:

To realize this dream in our daily living,

Turning our thoughts toward charity,

Our hearts toward justice,

And our hands toward the work of peace.

Shanti, shalom, salaam, amen.

Postlude

Ross Updegraff

Organist
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Shore 1st Ward



CHAPLAIN TAHERA AHMAD

Chaplain Tahera Ahmad is a Muslim scholar-practitioner who currently serves as the Director of Interfaith Engagement, as an associate university chaplain, and as associate chair of the women’s residential college at Northwestern University. She also serves as a faculty member in Northwestern’s Garrett Theological Seminary.

Seen widely in various media, she was featured in the PBS documentary, “The Calling,” which portrayed the 21st-century struggles of leaders of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. She has worked closely with the US Justice and State departments leading workshops on cultural awareness of Muslims and on religious diversity. She currently serves as a trustee of the Parliament of the World’s Religions and on the first American Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council.

Chaplain Ahmad’s undergraduate education was in biochemistry, which she later followed with studies in the Islamic Chaplaincy and Interfaith Dialogue program at the Hartford Seminary, where she received graduate certification in its Women’s Spiritual Leadership Program. She was also certified in Classical Arabic and Islamic Studies by the Al-Diwan Learning Center and Al-Azhar University, both in Cairo.

Free Will Offering

We encourage food or financial donations to the New Trier Township Food Pantry.
(You will find receptacles for your donations just outside the doors to the church sanctuary.)

To learn where and how to donate to the Food Pantry following this occasion,
please visit newtriertownship.com/156/Food-Pantry
and click on “Donate”

Fellowship

We warmly invite you to remain after the service to exchange greetings,
enjoy light refreshments, and join in informal conversation.

Acknowledgements

Musical Direction:

Sheila Duran, Rebekeh Kamae

Communications:

Junia Hedberg, Thomas Murphy, Greg Richards, Waldek Ziolkowski

Planning:

James Juchau, Greg Merkley, and members of
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette

NTMA Interfaith Committee Members

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

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

First Congregational Church of Wilmette

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

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER IMAGE:

In 1846, violence against members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints forced thousands of men, women, and children to leave the state of Illinois after church founder Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were murdered. Latter-day Saint artist Minerva Tiechert (1888-1976) painted this mural depicting Hyrum's impoverished widow and her seven-year-old son making the 1,200-mile journey to their eventual home in the Salt Lake Valley (in what later became the state of Utah). Their story is the story of millions of people throughout history who have been displaced because of their faith and followed their conscience in search of a promised land.



New Trier Multifaith Alliance

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<http://ntmalliance.org/>