



Interfaith Gratitude Service

Tuesday, November 26 7:30 PM

Christ Church Winnetka
784 Sheridan Rd, Winnetka



NEW TRIER
MULTIFAITH
ALLIANCE

2024 Interfaith Gratitude Service

AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY THE
NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE

HOSTED BY

CHRIST CHURCH WINNETKA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 7:30 P.M.

Order of Service

Prelude Music

"Those Americans"

From *Five Dances for the Organ*

by Calvin Hampton

"Andante religioso"

From Sonata 4, Op. 65

by Felix Mendelssohn

Mr. Noah Wynne-Morton

Assistant Organist

Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest

Holiday Greetings and Welcome

Rev. Matthew Hanisian

Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund

Christ Church Winnetka

Mr. Thomas Murphy

Vice-Chair, Executive Committee

New Trier Multifaith Alliance

A Native American Blessing

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Thanksgiving Address

Ms. Kim Vigue

Executive Director

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian,

Evanston

THE PEOPLE

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE EARTH MOTHER

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE WATERS

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms: waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE FISH

We turn our minds to all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE PLANTS

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE FOOD PLANTS

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans, and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE MEDICINE HERBS

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE ANIMALS

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their

lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE TREES

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty, and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE BIRDS

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds—from the smallest to the largest—we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

THE FOUR WINDS

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

CLOSING WORDS

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

(Please Say Together) **Now our minds are one.**

A Jewish Prayer

(sung in Hebrew and recited in translation)

Cantor Pavel Roytman

Cantor

Congregation Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah, Wilmette

Modim Anachnu Lach: We Give Thanks to You

We give thanks to You that you are the Lord our God, and God of our ancestors forever and ever, Rock of our lives and Shield of our salvation from generation to generation.

We give thanks to you and recount your praises, for our lives that are entrusted in your hand, and for our souls that are in your safekeeping, and for your miracles that

are with us every day, and for your wonders and good deeds that are with us at all times: evening, morning, and midday.

Good One, your mercies never fail us, Compassionate One, your loving kindness never ceases.

We always hope in you!

A Buddhist Reflection on Gratitude

Ms. Asayo Koyo Horibe

President

Buddhist Council of the Midwest

Please Call Me by My True Names

(from a poem by Vietnamese monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh)

Do not say that I'll depart tomorrow; even today, I am still arriving.
Look deeply: every second I am arriving to be a bud on a spring branch,
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings, learning to sing in my new nest,
to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower, to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry, to fear and to hope.
The rhythm of my heart is the birth and death of all that are alive.

I am a mayfly metamorphosing on the surface of the river.
And I am the bird which, when spring comes, arrives in time to eat the mayfly.
I am the frog swimming happily in the clear water of a pond.
And I am the grass-snake that silently feeds itself on the frog.

I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones, my legs as thin as bamboo sticks.
And I am the arms merchant, selling deadly weapons to Uganda.

I am the twelve-year-old girl, refugee on a small boat,
who throws herself into the ocean after being raped by a sea pirate.
And I am the pirate, my heart not capable of seeing or loving.

I am a member of the Politburo, with plenty of power in my hands.
And I am the man who has to pay his "debt of blood" to my people dying in a forced labor camp.

My joy is like spring, so warm it makes flowers bloom all over the Earth.
My pain is like a river of tears, so vast it fills the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names, so I can hear all my cries and laughter at once,
so I can see that my joy and pain are one.

Please call me by my true names, so I can wake up
and the door of my heart can be left open, the door of compassion.

Recitation from Islamic Scripture

From the Qur'an:

Surah 4: An-Nisa (The Women)

Verse 135

Ms. Saleh Akram

*Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove
(reciting the Arabic and English translation)*

Mr. Asif Mansoor

*Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove
(commentary)*

Oh you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, of what you do, aware.

Surah 2: Al-Baqarah (The Cow)

Verses 154–156

And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, "They are dead." Rather, they are alive, but you perceive [it] not. And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient, who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."

Surah 3: Al-Imran (The Family of Imran)

Verse 139

So do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are believers.

Reading from Bahá'í Scripture

From Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

Ms. Lorelei McClure

*Director of Activities (retired)
Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette*

The Purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, in revealing Himself unto men is to lay bare those gems that lie hidden within the mine of their true and inmost selves. . . .

That the divers communions of the earth, and the manifold systems of religious belief, should never be allowed to foster the feelings of animosity among men, is, in this Day, of the essence of the Faith of God and His Religion.

These principles and laws, these firmly established and mighty systems, have proceeded from one Source, and are the rays of one Light. That they differ one from another is to be attributed to the varying requirements of the ages in which they were promulgated.

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: "Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch.

“Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Daystar of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.”

Congregational Hymn

“For the Fruit of All Creation”



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God;
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done;
3. For the har - vests of the spir - it, thanks be to God;



for the gifts of ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God;
in the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done;
for the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God;



for the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
in our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
for the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.



Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Mr. Thomas Murphy
New Trier Multifaith Alliance

Keynote Address

Mr. Steve Sarowitz
Elected member
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Highland Park



Steve Sarowitz is a highly successful entrepreneur and the Founder and Chairman of Paylocity, a popular digital application for payroll and other human-resource administrative functions.

He is also a humanitarian, who, with his wife, Jessica, established the Julian Grace Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to community-building on a global scale through a host of programs that aim to increase socioeconomic mobility and enable lasting social reform.

In addition, he is a filmmaker and is the co-founder (with actor Justin Baldoni) of Wayfarer Studios, a creative enterprise engaged in the development and production of films designed to inform, uplift the spirit, and serve as an impetus to social change. Among cinematic projects he has brought to the

screen is the Peabody Award-winning “And Still I Rise,” a documentary on the life and work of the celebrated poet, novelist, and human rights activist Maya Angelou.

A graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics, Steve was raised in the Jewish tradition. Introduced to the Bahá’í Faith while a college student, rekindled interest in the Faith in midlife led him to embrace it fully.

In addition to his energetic and multifaceted advocacy of the Bahá’í Faith, Steve is active in interfaith work and served as one of the plenary speakers at the most recent Parliament of the World’s Religions, which was held in August 2023 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

Together with their two children, Steve and Jessica currently make their home in Highland Park.

Adult Choir Anthem

“Grant Us Thy Peace”
by Felix Mendelssohn

Adult Combined Choir
conducted by Mr. Richard Clemmitt
Director of Music
Christ Church Winnetka

Closing Benediction

Adapted from "*Interfaith Benediction*"
by Gary Kowalski

Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund
Curate
Christ Church Winnetka

Leader: Gathered from varied faiths,

**Everyone: 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.***

Closing Congregational Hymn

"Bringing Grateful Lives and Customs"



1. Bring-ing grate-ful lives and cus-toms, Rich be-liefs, with truths to share,
2. Lift-ing grate-ful hearts and voic-es We u-nite in joy-ful sound,
3. Join-ing grate-ful hands in ac-tion, This com-mu-ni-ty is sent



Va-ried faiths here come to-geth-er, Each a voice raised up in prayer;
Giv-ing thanks for na-ture's won-der, For the splen-dor all a-round;
To a world in need of heal-ing; This, the work for which we're meant:



Shar-ing one an-oth-er's__ jour-neys In our__ sto-ries, joys, or tears,
Seek-ing to be pru-dent stew-ards Of the__ boun-ty from the land,
Of-f'ring gifts of each tra-di-tion, Lift-ing__ high our hope-filled praise,



Thank-ful for the grace and bless-ing, Wis-dom gained through-out the years.
Tend-ing hun-gry, thirst-ing bod-ies With an o-pen, gen-'rous hand.
Giv-ing free-ly to serve oth-ers, Sing-ing thanks through all our days.

Postlude Music

Mr. Noah Wynne-Morton

Assistant Organist

Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest

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 www.newtriertownship.com 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: Richard Clemmitt

Accompanist: Noah Wynne-Morton

Communications: Junia Hedberg, Thomas Murphy, Greg Richards, Waldek Ziolkowski

Planning: Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund and members of Christ Church Winnetka

NTMA Gratitude Service Task Force

Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund, Junia Hedberg, James Juchau, Jena Khadem Khodadad, Thomas Murphy, Julie Peterson, Greg Richards, Puran Stevens, Waldek Ziolkowski

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 13 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 Winnetka

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette

Church of the Holy Comforter

Congregation Hakafa

Congregation Sukkat Shalom

First Congregational Church of Wilmette

Kenilworth Union Church

Muslim Community Center of Morton Grove

Temple Jeremiah

Winnetka Congregational Church

Winnetka Covenant Church



New Trier Multifaith Alliance

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<http://ntmalliance.org/>