



NEW TRIER  
MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE  
Fostering Understanding Among Faiths

New Trier Multifaith Alliance

# Service of Gratitude

Tuesday, November 25, at 7:30 pm

TEMPLE JEREMIAH  
937 HAPP ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, IL

# 2025 Interfaith Gratitude Service

AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY THE  
NEW TRIER MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE

HOSTED BY

**TEMPLE JEREMIAH**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:30 P.M.

## Order of Service

### **Prelude Music**

*“O God Beyond All Praising”*

by Gustav Holst, arr. Marianne Kim

*“We Gather Together”*

Traditional Dutch, arr. Marianne Kim

Marianne Kim  
*Temple Jeremiah*

### **Welcome and Greetings**

Rabbi Paul Cohen, SENIOR RABBI  
Barbara Kite, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
*Temple Jeremiah*

## Choral Welcome

NTMA Community Choir

Directed by Cantor Lianna Mendelson

Conducted by Marissa Simmons

*Temple Jeremiah*

### *“Hinei Mah Tov (Behold, How Good)”*

Music and English text by Cantor Becky Mann

Hebrew from *Psalm 133:1*

Open the door, open your eyes,  
Open your heart, see what’s inside.

Lay down your walls, lay down your fears,  
Lean into love, you are welcome here.

*Hinei mah tov, umah na'im,  
Shevet achim gam yachad.*

דְּתִי מִגּ מִיֵּחָצ תִּבָּשׂ מִיֵּשֶׁב הַמִּזְבֵּחַ בּוֹט הַיָּמ הַיְהִי

## A Jewish Prayer

Rabbi Bruce Elder

*Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe*

### ***Modim (Prayer of Thanks), from the Amidah***

adapted by Eugene Pickett

Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.  
We are grateful to You.

For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations, Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons,  
Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements,  
Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

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. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared, Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

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. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

For human liberties and sacred rites: for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose, Modim anachnu lach. גַּל וּנְחַנָּא מִיְדוּמ.

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, Adonai, Your Name is Goodness.

## Children's Choral Offering

Children & Youth Choir

Rebekeh Kamae, DIRECTOR

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette*

### *"I Am Thankful"*

by Angie Killian, James Stevens, and Joelle Einerson

For the stars in the sky  
Birds that flutter and fly  
I am thankful, thankful!

For the leaves on the trees;  
How they dance in the breeze  
I am thankful, thankful!

With an attitude of gratitude  
For blessings, big and small  
I'll show gratefulness and thankfulness  
As I praise the Lord of all  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
I am thankful!

For the bright shining light  
Of the Lord, Jesus Christ  
I am thankful, thankful!

For the life that he lived  
And the love that he gives  
I am thankful, thankful!

With an attitude of gratitude  
For blessings, big and small  
I'll show gratefulness and thankfulness  
As I praise the Lord of all  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
I am thankful!

I feel gladness every day  
When I pray

With an attitude of gratitude  
For blessings, big and small  
I'll show gratefulness and thankfulness  
As I praise the Lord of all  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
I am thankful!

I am thankful!

## Buddhist Blessings

Asayo Koyo Horibe, PRESIDENT

*Buddhist Council of the Midwest, Chicago*

### ***Thanksgiving Blessings of Gratitude from the Buddhist Tradition***

*from Dhammavadaka*

Remember always that you are just a visitor here, a traveler passing through, your stay is but short and the moment of your departure unknown.

None can live without toil and a craft that provides your needs is a blessing indeed.

But if you toil without rest, fatigue and weariness will overtake you, and you will be denied the joy that comes from labour's end.

Speak quietly and kindly and be not forward with either opinions or advice. If you talk much, this will make you deaf to what others say, and you should know that there are few so wise that they cannot learn from others.

Be near when help is needed, but far when praise and thanks are being offered.

Take small account of might, wealth and fame, for they soon pass and are forgotten.

Instead, nurture love within you and strive to be a friend to all. Truly, compassion is a balm for many wounds.

Treasure silence when you find it, and while being mindful of your duties, set time aside, to be alone with yourself.

Cast off pretense and self-deception and see yourself as you really are.

Despite all appearances, no one is really evil. They are led astray by ignorance. If you ponder this truth always, you will offer more light, rather than blame and condemnation.

You, no less than all beings have Buddha-Nature within. Your essential Mind is pure. Therefore, when defilements cause you to stumble and fall, let not remorse nor dark foreboding cast you down.

Be of good cheer and with this understanding, summon strength and walk on.

Faith is like a lamp and wisdom makes the flame burn bright. Carry this lamp always and in good time the darkness will yield and you will abide in the Light.

## Reading from Bahá'í Scripture

Alejandro (Alejo) Taylor, STAFF MEMBER  
*Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette*

### ***Excerpt from Tablet of the World (Lawḥ-i-Dunya)*** *from Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, No. 7*

It is incumbent upon every man, in this Day, to hold fast unto whatsoever will promote the interests, and exalt the station, of all nations.

We have erewhile declared—and Our Word is the truth: “Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.” Whatsoever hath led the children of men to shun one another, and hath caused dissensions and divisions amongst them, hath, through the revelation of these words, been nullified and abolished.

Of old it hath been revealed: “Love of one’s country is an element of the Faith of God.” The Tongue of Grandeur hath, however, in the day of His manifestation proclaimed: “It is not his to boast who loveth his country, but it is his who loveth the world.” Through the power released by these exalted words He hath lent a fresh impulse, and set a new direction, to the birds of men’s hearts, and hath obliterated every trace of restriction and limitation from God’s holy Book.

O people of Justice! Be as brilliant as the light, and as splendid as the fire that blazed in the Burning Bush. The brightness of the fire of your love will no doubt fuse and unify the contending peoples and kindreds of the earth, whilst the fierceness of the flame of enmity and hatred cannot but result in strife and ruin.

## Choral Offering

NTMA Community Choir

### *“Weave”*

Music and Lyrics by Rosemary Crow

Weave, weave, weave us together  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together, together in love.

We are many textures, we are many colors,  
Each one different from the other.  
But we are entwined with one another in one great tapestry...

We are diff'rent instruments playing our own melodies,  
each one tuning to a diff'rent key.  
But we are all playing in harmony in one great symphony...

## Reading from the Book of Psalms

Rev. Mary Herbig, SENIOR PASTOR  
*First Congregational Church of Wilmette*

### ***Psalm 136***

*Adapted from New International Version (NIV) Bible*

Responsive Reading: ***Congregation reads italics:***

Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good.  
God's love endures forever.

***to God who alone does great wonders,  
God's love endures forever.***

who by God's understanding made the heavens,  
God's love endures forever.

***who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
God's love endures forever.***

who made the great lights—  
God's love endures forever.

***the sun to govern the day,  
God's love endures forever.***

the moon and stars to govern the night;  
God's love endures forever.

***Give thanks to the Holy One of heaven.  
God's love endures forever.***

## Indigenous Musical Offering

Jennifer M. Stevens

*Accompanied by Marianne Kim*

### *“O!^na”: Song of Gratitude*

by Jennifer M. Stevens

ABOUT THE ARTIST: *Jennifer M. Stevens is a singer, composer, artist, researcher and educator whose life philosophy is “community-building through the arts.” She is currently a resident of Bayview-Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin through her father and Oglala Lakota through her mother. She was born in Alexandria, Virginia and raised on the Oneida Nation-De Pere, Wisconsin and received her B.A. in Art from St. Norbert College.*

*Jennifer studied Classical Singing and Opera nationally and internationally. She studied Classical Art in college and traditional Oneida Pottery with prominent woodland Indigenous artists. She became nationally known for her contribution in cultural preservation through Oneida Pottery revitalization and taught Oneida Pottery for 23 years. She is among the few in history to become a professional Native American woman composer and classical singer-Opera singer.*

## Introduction of Guest Speaker

Rev. John Kay

*New Trier Multifaith Alliance*

## Guest Speaker

Dima Zaghal, OPERATIONS

*Building Together*

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: *Dima Zaghal is a Palestinian-American artist and community advocate from the Chicago area whose work sheds light upon Palestinian and Arab diasporic experiences. Through her art and community work, she seeks to illuminate shared humanity and nurture understanding across faiths and cultures.*

*This passion also guides Dima’s work in Operations for Building Together, where she helps strengthen interfaith partnerships and collaborative efforts toward lasting peace. Dima studied Art and Art History at Lake Forest College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.*

## Choral Offering

NTMA Community Choir

*“Hodayah (Thanksgiving)”*

by Rick Recht

***The congregation is encouraged to join in song:***

**Hodayah, hodayah, we give thanks for our blessings, hodayah.  
Hodayah, hodayah, we give thanks for our blessings, hodayah.**

**The blessing of life, the blessing of love, the blessing of spirit.  
The blessing of joy, the blessing of song, Hal’luyah, Hal’luyah.**

**Hodayah, hodayah, we give thanks for our blessings, hodayah.  
Hodayah, hodayah, we give thanks for our blessings, hodayah.**

## Closing Benediction

Rabbi Paul Cohen, SENIOR RABBI  
*Temple Jeremiah*

## Postlude Music

Marianne Kim  
*Temple Jeremiah*



## 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](http://www.newtriertownship.com) and click on “Donate.”

## Support of *Building Together*

Donations to the important work of *Building Together* are highly encouraged. For every gift of \$25, donors will receive a gift of the project’s special date honey; for every gift of \$50 or more, they will receive 3 jars. (They make a unique gift for the holiday season.) Please visit the special table in our lobby following this evening’s service.

## Fellowship

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



## **Acknowledgements**

The Alliance extends its deep gratitude to the leadership and staff of Temple Jeremiah for all of the work undertaken in the planning and hosting of this community event.

*Special thanks go to Temple Jeremiah's Rabbi Paul Cohen, Cantor Lianna Mendelson, lay leaders Barb Kite and Greg Richards, and Executive Director Danny Glassman and his facilities team.*

We also wish to thank the following individuals who served on the NTMA Gratitude Service Task Force: Silas Dick, Rev. John Kay, Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund, Junia Hedberg, Carol Jansson, Thomas Murphy, and, in particular, Waldek Ziolkowski of Winnetka Congregational Church, who prepared this Program booklet.

## **About 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, Wilmette

Buddhist Council of the Midwest

Christ Episcopal Church, Winnetka

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilmette

Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe

Congregation Sukkat Shalom, Wilmette

First Congregational Church of Wilmette

Kenilworth Union Church

Muslim Community Center, Morton Grove

Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish, Wilmette

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield

Winnetka Congregational Church

Winnetka Covenant Church





**New Trier Multifaith Alliance**

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