

## SPECIAL THANKS

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jennifer Beahan, Rev. Tom Bolster, Rev. Ellen Brubaker, Fanchon Clark, Beth Farnum, Anne Gurecki, Dr. Ali Metwali, Dr. Ed Perkins, Rev. Sacha (Sandra Bier), Rabbi Michael Schadick, Fred Stella.

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## RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to a reception following the service in the Family Center, the building northeast of the church.

## DONATIONS

Baskets are available near the doors of church for food and monetary offerings to benefit ACCESS and help alleviate hunger.

# COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

GIVE

THANKS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2004

7:00 P.M.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Prelude**

Community Choir  
Bill Marfink, Director

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

F. S. Pierpoint, text; DIX, Conrad Kocher, tune

**Welcome**

Rev. Tom Bolster, Pastor  
St. James Catholic Church

**Hymn: For the Fruits of this Creation**

For the fruits of this cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God;  
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done;  
For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, Thanks be to God;

For the gifts of ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God;  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be 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 the world - wide task of car - ing, For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that a - stound us, For the truths that will 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 be done.  
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

**Native American Spiritual Healing**

Simon Francis & Deb Gutowski  
Catholic Native American Ministry

Smudging is a way to purify the area so that the good medicine can flow; and that's an extra blessing from the earth that provides good results.

**Query**

Walter Marston  
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting

Are we good stewards of the abundant gifts bestowed upon us?  
How do we express our gratitude for these gifts?  
How do we share out of this abundance?

**Silence**

Quakers worship in silence, waiting and listening. Self-reflections and thanksgiving may also be experienced.

**Classical Guitar Music & Video**

Carlos de la Barrera  
Classical Guitarist

**Benediction**

Rev. Tom Bolster

**Hymn: We Are Grateful**

We are grate - ful for our bless - ings, for our bless - ings great and small.  
We are grate - ful to re - mem - ber both the laugh - ter and the pain.  
We are grate - ful for the ri - vers and the earth where flow - ers grow.

Sun and moon, the stars and heav - ens, we are grate - ful for them all.  
Lone - ly days and times to - geth - er all the sun - shine and the rain.  
We are grate - ful for each oth - er and the love we've come to know.

*Refrain*

Gifts of beau - ty we've been gi - ven so to bright - en up our days.

Take these gifts and treat them gent - ly, shar - ing them will be our praise.

## Thanking Verses from the Holy Koran

Moustafa Eissa  
Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

12/43,44: Glory to Him! He is high above all that they say! Exalted and Great (beyond measure)! The seven heavens and the earth, and all beings therein, declare His glory: there is not a thing but celebrates His praise, and yet ye understand not how they declare His glory! Verily He's Oft-Forbearing, Most Forgiving!

1/121: The life of this world is alluring to those who reject faith, and they scoff at those who believe. But the righteous will be above them on the Day of Resurrection, for Allah bestows His abundance without measure on whom He will.

27/73-75: But verily thy Lord is full of grace to mankind: yet most of them are ungrateful. And verily thy Lord knoweth all that their heart do hide, as well as all that they reveal. Nor is there aught of the Unseen, in heaven or earth, but is (recorded) in a clear record.

31/20-22: Do ye not see that Allah has subjected to your (use) all things in the heavens and on earth, and has made His bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, (both) seen and unseen? Yet there are among men those who dispute about Allah, without knowledge and without guidance, and without a Book, to enlighten them! When they are told to follow the (Revelation) that Allah has sent down, they say: "Nay, we shall follow the ways that we found our Fathers (following)." What! Even if it is Satan beckoning them to the Penalty of the (Blazing) Fire? Whoever submits his whole self to Allah, and is a doer of good, has grasped indeed the most trustworthy hand-hold: and with Allah rests the End and Decision of (all) affairs.

## Reflection

Kamal Nuriddin  
Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

## Ubi Caritas

Larry Barton  
St. Mary's Catholic Church

*Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est*

(Where there is charity and love, God is there)

This chant grew out of the Taizé tradition, which was started in an ecumenical monastic community in the Burgundy region of France. The purpose of the simple melodies, which are sung over and over, help one become quiet and meditative, allowing for personal reflection.

## Reading from Baha'i Sacred Writings

Beth Farnum  
Baha'i of Grand Rapids

## Buddhist Prayer of Gratitude

Mark Stella  
Buddhist

The Buddha encouraged his disciples to develop the *brahmavihāra* or sublime states of *mettā* and *karuna*, or friendliness and compassion toward all sentient beings, to all who seek happiness and avoid suffering. These qualities are therefore non-restrictive and non-exclusive, not restricted or withheld from any being regardless of its actions. We begin, however, by wishing health and happiness to ourselves, so that we will be able to convey them to those around us. Then, we follow by radiating *mettā* and *karuna* outward to the ones we care for, and in the spirit of this gathering, especially those to whom we owe gratitude.

"Moments of Transcendence" Prayer  
by Rabbi Sidney Greenberg

Rabbi Michael Schadick  
Temple Emanuel

Leader: We thank You, O God, for our family and for what they mean and bring to one another.

People: We are grateful for the bonds of loyalty and affection which sustain us, and which keep us close to one another no matter how far apart we may be.

Leader: We thank You for implanting within us a deep need for each other.

People: We thank You for giving us the capacity to love and to care.

Leader: Help us to be modest in our demands of one another, but generous in our giving to each other.

People: May we never measure how much love or encouragement we offer; may we never count the times we forgive. Rather, may we always be grateful that we have one another and that we are able to express our love in acts of kindness.

Leader: Keep us gentle in our speech.

People: When we offer words of criticism, may they be chosen with care and spoken softly. May we waste no opportunity to speak words of sympathy, of appreciation, of praise.

Leader: Bless our families with health, happiness, and contentment.

People: Grant us the wisdom to build a joyous and peaceful community in which Your support will always abide.

## We Give Thanks

All: We proclaim that You are Adonai our God and God of our ancestors throughout all time. You are the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation in every generation. We thank You and praise You for our lives that are in Your hand, for our souls that are in Your charge, for Your miracles that daily attend us, and for Your wonders and gifts that accompany us evening, morning, and noon. You are good, Your mercy everlasting. You are compassionate, Your kindness never ending. We have always placed our hope in You.

## A Freethinkers Thanksgiving

Jennifer Beahan  
Freethought Association of West Michigan

## Hindu Chant

Self-Realization Fellowship

*Listen, listen, listen to my heart's song. Listen, listen, listen to my heart's song. I will never forget thee. I will never forsake thee. I will never forget thee. I will never forsake thee.*

## "Let us Give Thanks" by Max Coats

Dr. Ed Perkins  
Trinity United Methodist Church

All: Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

Left: For children, who are our second planting, and, though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation, and fondly remember where their roots are.

Right: Let us give thanks: For generous friends with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

Left: For feisty friends as tart as apples;

Right: For continuous friends, who, like spring onions and cucumbers keep remind us that we've had them;

Left: For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

Right: For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn;

Left: And the others, as plain as potatoes, and as good for you;

Right: For funny friends, who are as silly as brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;

Left: For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

Right: For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

Left: For loving friends who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

Right: And, finally for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

All: For all these, let us give thanks.

## "Anyway You Bless Me"

New Spiritual Reflections  
Beverly Durr, Kimberley Mortha-Tillman  
Kimberly Houston, Sandy Willis & Latonya Watson

## "We Give Thanks" Litany

Dr. Brent Smith  
All Souls Community Church, Unitarian Universalist

Leader: For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imagination:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For our 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:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:

People: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For human liberty and sacred ties; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:

People: We give thanks this day. We pray that we may live - not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.