

# ~THANK YOU~

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Rev. Tom Bolster, Rev. Jennie Browne, Sherron Collins, Anne Gurecki, Gloria Holmes, Rabbi David Krishef, Dr. Ali Metwali, Rev. Sacha (Sandra Bier), Rev. Brent Smith, Fred Stella, Walt Marston

SPONSORS: All Souls Community Church (Unitarian Universalist), Baha'i Community, Cherry Valley Presbyterian, Congregation Ahavas Israel, First United Methodist, Fountain Street Church, Freethought Association of West Michigan, Gathering in Faith, GR Friends Meeting, GR Meditation Circle of Self Realization Fellowship, West Michigan Hindu Temple Society, West Michigan Sikh Society, Interfaith Dialogue Association, Islamic Center of West Michigan, Lakeshore Interfaith Institute, Sacred Space, St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. James Catholic Church, Temple Emanuel, Trinity United Methodist, West Michigan Hindu Temple Society, Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Special thanks to Helen Hofmeister Hawley and Patty Hughes for their assistance with music and licensing.

Everyone is invited to a **reception** following the service in the Dining Hall.

To help alleviate hunger, baskets are available near the doors for **monetary offerings**. Your generosity will benefit those aided by Second Harvest Gleaners.

## Community INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

7th Annual



Monday, November 20, 2006  
Fountain Street Church

**Prelude:** Choral Improvisation on *Now Thank We All*  
Karg-Elert

Marilyn Ossentjuk, organist

**Choral Anthem:** *I Thank You God*  
Lloyd Pfautsch

Fountain Street Church Choir

**Welcome**

W. Fred Wooden  
Senior Pastor, Fountain Street Church

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

F. Pratt Green



**We Are Woven Together**

Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Unitarian Society, New Haven

Rev. Sacha (Sandra) Bier  
Lakeshore Interfaith Institute/  
Mother's Trust Mother's Place

**Native American Spiritual Healing**

Fred Chivis, Nottawaseppi Band of Potawatami

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.

**Reading from Baha'u'llah, Prophet Founder of Baha'i Faith**

Dr. Koroush Toloui  
Baha'i Community

For this fragile planet earth, its time and tides, its sunsets and season:

**We give thanks this day.**

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

**We give thanks this day.**

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:

**We give thanks this day.**

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

**We give thanks this day.**

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

**We give thanks this day.**

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

**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.**

**Benediction**

Fr. Tom Bolster, Pastor  
St. James Catholic Church

**Hymn:** *We Are Grateful*

Ray Repp



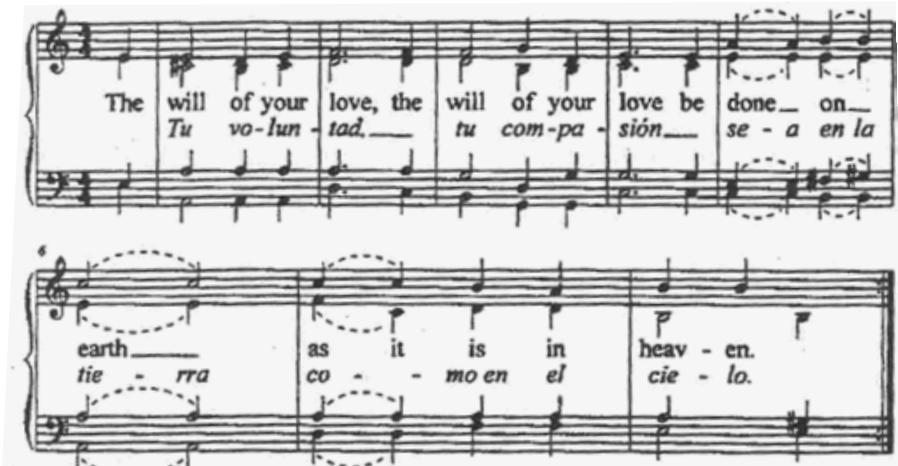
***The Will of Your Love/Tu Voluntad***

Suzanne Toolan, RSM

Larry Barton, Director of Music

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Roberta Barton, Accompanist



**A Quaker Poem of Thanksgiving**

Query:

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 to the Spirit. Self-reflections and thanksgiving may also be experienced.

***In That Great Gettin' Up Mornin'*** Whatever Four Or More, Westminster Presbyterian Church

arr. Jester Hairston

Tom Macholon, Dan Male, Phil Hertel, Marv Ebbens, Joe Veenstra

**Responsive Reading: *We Give Thanks***

from the writings of O. Eugene Pickett

Rev. Brent Smith

All Souls Community Church

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

**We give thanks this day.**

***Ruach Elohim (May God Bless You)***

Shir Shalom Choir

Bill Marfink, Director

**Buddhist Story of Gratitude**

Steve Sampson

**Don't Forget Where All Your Blessings Come From**

New Spiritual Reflections

Kim Houston, Sandy Willis, Latonya Watson, Kimberley Morgan, Robert Johnson

**Prayer of Thanksgiving from Siddur Sim Shalom**

Rabbi David Krishef

verses from Psalms, Isaiah, and Ben Sira

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Leader: Worship Adonai in gladness; come before God with joy.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; with gratitude sing out God's praise.

Right: Adonai, Creator of the heavens and the earth, provides food for the hungry with mercy, and brings justice to the oppressed.

Left: Praise the Creator who works great wonders, who ennobles us from birth, who treats us with compassion.

R God covers the sky with clouds, sending rain, bringing forth bread from the earth to sustain us, providing wind to gladden the human heart.

L God has brought peace to our borders and has satisfied us with choice wheat. God has blessed us with liberty, with noble dreams, and with the pursuit of happiness.

R Give thanks to Adonai, for God is good. God's love endures forever.

L God crowns the year with goodness, and the fields yield a rich harvest.

R The hills are covered with happiness, and the meadows are clothed with sheep; the valleys, adorned with corn.

L How shall we thank God for our blessings?

R Let us share our bread with the hungry; let us not turn away from the needs.

L Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless, help those who have no help.

R Let us not take our blessings for granted. Let us share them with others, with thanks.

L Sing a new song for Adonai. Where the faithful gather, let God be praised.

All: God's love endures forever. Let us share in that love with our life.

L How shall we thank God for our blessings?

R Let us share our bread with the hungry; let us not turn away from the needs.

L Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless, help those who have no help.

R Let us not take our blessings for granted. Let us share them with others, with thanks.

L Sing a new song for Adonai. Where the faithful gather, let God be praised.

All: God's love endures forever. Let us share in that love with our life.

### ***O God Beautiful***

Traditional Hindu chant

GR Meditation Circle of Self Realization Fellowship

O God Beautiful  
At Thy feet O I do bow  
O God Beautiful  
In the forest thou art green  
In the mountain thou art high  
In the river thou art restless  
In the ocean thou art grave  
(chorus)  
To the serviceful thou art service  
To the lover thou art love  
To the sorrowful thou art sympathy  
To the joyful thou art bliss  
(chorus)

### **A Thanksgiving Meditation for Free Thinkers**

Sherron Collins

Freethought Association of West Michigan

### **Prayer of Gratitude**

Sikh Society of West Michigan

Guru Granth Sahib

Shazia Singh, Sevina Mander, Amrit Singh, Harkirath Singh

There is one God with many names  
We are all the children of God  
Come oh children of God, sing his praises  
May our hearts be constantly filled with his love  
May we all be constantly blessed with the Glance of Grace  
Drink in this Ambrosial Nectar, and remain in the Lord's Love forever,  
Meditate on the Lord, the Sustainer of the world.

### **Reflection**

*The Art of Thanksgiving is Thanks-Living*

Sr. Sue Tracy

Sr. Sue Tracy, OP has been with the Dominican order for 47 years. She is currently a staff chaplain at Spectrum Hospital (Butterworth). She herself is a 4-time cancer survivor, and works primarily in spiritual care for both cancer patients and their families. Sr. Sue is credited as a contributing author in both *Chicken Soup for the Surviving Soul* And *Praying Through Cancer: Set Your Heart Free From Fear*.

### **Verses from the Holy Koran on Gratitude**

Moustafa Eissa

Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

- 17/43,44: 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!
- 2/12: 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 hearts 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.

### **Prayer from The United Methodist Book of Worship**

Rev. Jenny Browne

1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church

Thank you, Creator of the universe, for the people gathered around us today. We give thanks for the things of the earth that give us the means of life.

**Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine.**

Thank you for the natural world, in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

**Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world.**

Help us to see our place among these gifts, not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

**May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.**