

NINTH ANNUAL
**COMMUNITY INTERFAITH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**



7:00 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREW

PRELUDE

WaZoBia Drum Ensemble
Sunny Eselekhomen, Josh Dunigan, Jennifer Beahan,
Emily Byxbe, Andrew Teggelaar, Geoff Lomden

WaZoBia means "Come, Come, Come" in three native languages of Nigeria

ANTHEM

"Magnificat" by John Rutter Grand Rapids Diocesan Choir
Dennis Rybicki , director

WELCOME

Fr. Mark David Janus, CSP
Catholic Information Center

HYMN (please stand)

"For the Beauty of the Earth" Bill Marfink, organist

1. For the beau - ty of the earth,
2. For the beau - ty of each hour
3. For the joy of ear and eye,
4. For the joy of hu - man love,

for the glo - ry of the skies, for the love which
of the day and of the night, hill and vale and
for the heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic
broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child; friends on earth and

from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate ful praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint. Tune: DIX; arr. from Conrad Kocher by William H. Monk. Public domain.

NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL HEALING

Lawrence Haney
 Seminole and Sac-n-Fox

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

READING FROM BAHÁ'Í SCRIPTURE

Nadia Ghebre

VERSES

(sung by the cantor while the chant is continued by the people)

1. Todo mi ser celebra lo grande que es Dios.
Sing out my soul the greatness of our God.
2. Mi espíritu se alegra en mi salvador.
My spirit finds joy in God my savior.
3. Mi Dios ha hecho grandes cosas en mí.
The Almighty has done great things for me.
4. Y sus favores alcanzan a quien le es fiel.
God has mercy on those who fear him.
5. Bajó al poderoso, al humilde él alzó.
He has cast down the mighty and lifted up the poor.
6. Al hambriento colmó de bienes y al rico le quitó.
The hungry he's filled with good things, sent the rich empty away.
7. De su misericordia Dios se acordó.
God remembered his promise from of old.

REFLECTION

“Celebrating Our Oneness”

Michael Hampton

Mr. Hampton is the treasurer for the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cascade Township.

The Baha'i Faith has no professional clergy. Each adult member is eligible to serve the community and to serve on the administrative bodies of the Faith: Local Spiritual Assemblies, National Spiritual Assemblies, and The Universal House of Justice.

Professionally, Mr. Hampton is currently a Vice President of Investments with Raymond James & Associates, an investment banking firm. In addition, he has served as a board member of several businesses as well as being involved in civic and charitable affairs, including the Grand Rapids Rotary Club, Economics Club of Grand Rapids, the Employer's Coalition for the Healing of Racism for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, the Cultural Diversity Council for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the Financial Advisory Committee for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

RIDE THE CHARIOT - Arr. Wm. Henry Smith

Whatever 4 or More:

AMAZING GRACE - Arr. Paul Mickelson

Marv Ebbens, Phil Hertel,
Tom Macholon, Dan Male, Joe Veenstra
Westminster Presbyterian Church

A QUAKER QUERY

Walt Marston
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting

Quakers worship in silence, waiting and listening to the Spirit. Self-reflection and thanksgiving may also be experienced.

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 experience?

MODIM ANACHNU LACH - (We Are Thankful)

Shir Shalom Choir
Bill Marfink, Director

WE GIVE THANKS

The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith
All Souls Community Church (Unitarian Universalist)

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.

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 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.

VERSES FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN

Sora XXXI, Luqman (The wise)

Imam Morsy Salem

Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

Translation:

31/ 12-20: We bestowed (in the past) Wisdom on Luqman: "show (thy) gratitude to God. Any who is (so) grateful does so to the profit of his own soul: but if any is ungrateful, Verily God is free of all wants, worthy of all praise. Behold, Luqman said to his son By way of instruction: "O my son! Join not in worship (others) with God: for false Worship is indeed the highest wrong-doing." And We have enjoined on man (to be Good) to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years Twain was his weaning: (hear the command), "show gratitude to Me and to thy Parents: to Me is (thy final) goal. "But if they strive to make thee join in worship with Me things of which thou hast no knowledge, obey them not; yet bear them company In this life with justice (and consideration), and follow the way of those who turn to Me (in love): in the End the return of you all is to Me, and I will tell you the truth (and meaning) of all that ye did." "O my son" (said Luqman), "if there be (but) the Weight of a mustard-seed and it were (hidden) in a rock, or (anywhere) in the Heavens or on earth, God will bring it forth: for God understands the finest mysteries, (and) is well-acquainted (with them). "O my son! establish regular prayer, enjoin What is just, and forbid what is wrong: and bear with patient constancy whate'er Betide thee; for this is firmness (of purpose) in (the conduct of) affairs. "And swell not thy cheek (for pride) at men, nor walk in insolence through the earth; For God loveth not any arrogant boaster. "And be moderate in thy pace, and lower Thy voice; for the harshest of sounds without doubt is the braying of the ass." Do ye not see that God 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 God, without Knowledge and without guidance, and without a Book to enlighten them!

A BUDDHIST PRAYER

Dr. Karen Gipson

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME

New Spiritual Reflections
Kim Houston, Sandy Willis,
Latonya Watson, Kimberley Morgan

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Jay Schimpf
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

HYMN

"Song of Thanksgiving"

1. We sing now to - ge - ther our song of thanks - giv - ing, re -
2. We sing of the free doms which mar - tyrs and her - oes have
3. We sing of earth's boun - ty, a gift still un - fold ing in

joic - ing in goods which the a - ges have wrought, for
won by their la - bor, their sor - row, their pain; the
ev - ery far con - ti - nent, reg - ion and land; with

life that en - folds us, and helps and heals and holds us, and
 op - pressed be - friend ing, our amp - ler hopes de - fend - ing, their
 those of all ra - ces, all times and names and plac - es, we

leads be - yond the goals which our fore - bears once sought.
 death be - comes our tri - umph, their loss is our gain.
 pledge our - selves in fel - low - ship firm - ly to stand.

Text: Wilt heden nu treden, Netherlands folk hymn; tr. By Theodore Baker, alt.
 Tune: KREMSER; Neder-lantsch Gedenckclanck, 1626; harm. By Edward Kremser. Public domain.

BENEDICTION

Fr. Tom Bolster
 St. James Church

POSTLUDE

Nick Palmer, organist

RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to a reception following the celebration in the Parish Center.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

To help alleviate hunger, baskets are available near the doors for monetary offerings. Your generosity will benefit those aided by the ACCESS of Michigan and the Kids' Food Bank.

ACCESS provides working solutions to hunger and poverty in Kent County. Its Hunger Initiative oversees the network of 100 food pantries currently serving over 6,000 families each month; caseworkers serve as resources to congregations as they assist with essential rent, utility, transportation and medical needs; the "Living on the Edge" Poverty Simulation workshops teach hundreds of participants each year about the challenges of living on a poverty level income. Contact Marsha DeHollander at 774-2175 ext. 103 or marsha@accessofwestmichigan.org for more information.

KIDS FOOD BASKET is a hunger relief agency in Grand Rapids, MI that provides food-insecure children an evening meal each weekday at the end of the school day. The children we serve attend schools where 80% or above of students live at or below the poverty level. As a community based volunteer organization, our volunteers, ages 5 to 105, come from all walks of life to give their time, talent and treasure to end hunger amongst our children. For more information, contact Bridget Clark Whitney at (616) 235-4532 or Bridget@kidsfoodbasket.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO...

You who have gathered to celebrate our unity in diversity as a community.
The Cathedral of St. Andrew for sharing their facility and hosting the reception.
The participants for sharing their expressions of gratitude.
The many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make this event possible.

EVENT CO-SPONSORS

All Souls Community Church (Unitarian Universalist) • Baha'i Community • Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Cathedral of St. Andrew • Center for Inquiry – MI • Congregation Ahavas Israel • First United Methodist Church • Fountain Street Church • Grand Rapids Friends Meeting • Grand Rapids Meditation Circle of Self Realization Fellowship • Interfaith Dialogue Association • Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute • Mother's Trust, Mother's Place/Lakeshore Interfaith Institute • Sacred Space • St. James Catholic Church • St. Mary Catholic Church • Temple Emanuel • Trinity United Methodist Church • Westminster Presbyterian Church

PLANNING TEAM

Rabbi David Krishef, Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Fred Stella, Dr. Ali Metwalli, Gloria Holmes, Anne Gurecki, Rev. Dr. Jennie Browne, Rev. Fr. Tom Bolster, Rev. Sacha Bier, Larry Barton, Rev. Fr. Tom Tavella, Rev. Fr. Mark David Janus

