

A Litany of Gratitude Part 7

What Gift Can We Bring

Luci DeVoy
First United Methodist Church

A Litany of Gratitude Part 8

Prayer and Reflection

Rev. Sacha Bier
Sacred Space & Lakeshore Interfaith Institute

A Litany of Gratitude Part 9

i thank You God,
Poem by e. e. cummings

Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister,
All Souls Community Church
Unitarian Universalist

A Litany of Gratitude Part 10

Hymn "This Is My Song"

Number 159

Closing Words

Matthew Cockrum, Minister
Fountain Street Church

Postlude

Marilyn Oseentjuk, Organist
Fountain Street Church

*We invite you to join us in Social Hall for a reception
immediately following the service.*

Thanks To

Fountain Street Church for hosting and the Co-Sponsors of this year's Thanksgiving Service:

- ♦ All Souls Community Church ♦ Baha'i community ♦ Center for Inquiry | Michigan ♦
- ♦ Catholic Information Center ♦ Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids ♦ Fountain Street Church ♦
- ♦ First United Methodist Church ♦ GR Meditation Circle of Self Realization Fellowship ♦
- ♦ Interfaith Dialog Association ♦ Islamic Center of West Michigan ♦
- ♦ Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute ♦ Sacred Space/Lakeshore Interfaith Institute ♦
- ♦ Temple Emanuel ♦ West Michigan Hindu Temple ♦ Westminster Presbyterian Church ♦

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Planning Committee:

- ♦ W. Fred Wooden ♦ Jennifer Beahan ♦ Fred Stella ♦ Rabbi Michael Schadick ♦
- ♦ Rev. Sacha Bier ♦ Rev. Anne Weirich ♦ Dr. Ali M. Metwalli ♦ Rev. Dr. Jennifer Browne ♦

10th Annual

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The Many Languages of Gratitude

والعدد من اللغات والعرفان (*Arabic*)

Les Nombreuses Langues de la Gratitude (*French*)

感恩的许多语言 (*Chinese*)

Los Lenguajes de Gratitude (*Spanish*)

תודה הכרת של רבות שפות (*Hebrew*)

Οι πολλές γλώσσες της ευγνωμοσύνης (*Greek*)

Die Vielen Sprachen der Dankbarkeit (*German*)

Много Языки Благодарности (*Russian*)

De Vele Talen van Dankbaarheid (*Dutch*)

ภาษาไทย หลาย ภาษา (*Thai*)

Na dTeangacha go Leor de Bhuiochas a (*Irish*)

कृतज्ञता के कई भाषाएँ (*Hindi*)

Monday, November 23, 2009 7:00pm
Fountain Street Church

Prelude Marilyn Oseentjuk, Organist
Fountain Street Church

Welcome W. Frederick Wooden, Minister
Fountain Street Church

Hymn: "Give Thanks" Number 69

A Litany of Gratitude Part 1

Responsive Reading Rabbi Michael Schadick
Temple Emmanuel

For the days since last we met and shared our common bond of humanity.
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For the heavens which declare Your glory, and for the earth which shows Your handiwork,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For the concern of those who call us to be good stewards of the earth,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For Your servants in ages past who heard Your word and proclaimed Your sovereignty,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For the brave and courageous, and all valiant seekers of truth, liberty and justice,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For this night and Your spirit which binds us together in a moment of worship,
WE THANK YOU, GOD
For Your blessing, which lifts us from brokenness to wholeness, from despair to hope, from darkness to light, and from fear to trust,
WE THANK YOU, GOD, AMEN AND AMEN.

Modim Anachnu Lach (We Give Thanks) Shir Shalom Choir
Bill Marfink, Director

A Litany of Gratitude Part 2

Thanksgiving in The Quran Dr. Sahibzada, Director/ Imam
Islamic Center of West Michigan

The Merciful God created mankind and taught it to communicate. Sun and moon follow their calculated courses. Plants and tree both bow in adoration. God has raised the sky; set up the balance so that you may not exceed in the balance and may not fall short in balance. God has spread the earth with its fruits, palm-trees with sheathed clusters, husked grain and fragrant plants for mankind. (55:1-14) O, mankind turn to your God and thank Him. He openly announces: "remember me I will remember you; thank me and do not be ungrateful. (2:152)

He has given us life to submit to Him. **WE THANK GOD**
He has provided us food and shelter. **WE THANK GOD**
We remember and worship Him through His Mercy and Grace. **WE THANK GOD**

"If you thank me I will bestow you more" (14:7)

A Litany of Gratitude Part 3

Bharat Natyam Smita Chandra
Sacred dance offering gratitude West Michigan Hindu Temple

A Litany of Gratitude Part 4

Prayer of Baha'u'llah, Nadia Ghebre
Baha'i Community

A Litany of Gratitude Part 5

Secular Expression of Gratitude Charles LaRue, Board Member
Center for Inquiry | Michigan

Offertory Music Wherever Four or More: Phil Hertel, Joe Veenstra,
Offering to benefit ACCESS Dan Male, Tom Macholan, Marv Ebbens
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Thoughts on Gratitude Sister Maureen Geary OP
Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters

A Litany of Gratitude Part 6

Verses from the Holy QUR'AN Imam Morsy Salem
Sora XXXI, Luqman (The wise) Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

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 Litany of Gratitude

Litany Readers:

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Browne, First United Methodist Church
Mary Vaccaro, Catholic Information Center

1

"The Earth... is a sparkling blue and white jewel... laced with slowly swirling veils of white... like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery." (Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE." (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)

We live in all things and All things live in us

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS – TODAH! (Hebrew)

2

"O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos, you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle." (Hildegard of Bingen)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We live by the sun and we move with the stars

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANK – SHOKRUN! (Arabic)

3

"It could be that God has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem." (Annie Dillard)

"All creation is a song of praise."

We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.

WE REJOICE IN AND GIVE THANKS – SHUKRIYA! (Hindi)

4

"... stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of..." (Elisabet Sahtouris)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS – MIIGWECH! (Ojibway)

5

"Great Spirit, . . . give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! . . . all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. . .hear me!" (Black Elk)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their strength.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS - GRACIAS! (Spanish)

A Litany of Gratitude

6

"There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you." (Zen saying)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the responsibility of caring. We have the joy of celebrating.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS – BEDANKT! (Dutch)

7

"For the good will of people we give thanks, for their accustomed acts of consideration, for the order of society that enables us to live in dignity and freedom." (Kenneth Patton)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We have the honor of being loved. We have the duty to love others. We have the joy of giving and receiving.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS – EFKARISTO! (Greek)

8

Many times a day I realize how much my own life is built on the labours of my fellowmen, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. (Albert Einstein)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We have the memory of ancestors. We have their dreams as foundations for our own. We have the hope our lives will fulfill some of our promise.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS – KHAWP JAI (Laotian)

9

Whatever I am offered in devotion with a pure heart - a leaf, a flower, fruit, or water - I accept with joy. (Bhagavad Gita)

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We are full of the grace of creation. We are grace-ful. We are grateful.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS!

10

In the many languages by which we speak of gratitude there resides one heart and will. May we hear the common song they sing.

"ALL CREATION IS A SONG OF PRAISE."

We are many tongues but one song. We are many voices, but one humanity.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS!