

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



Monday, November 22, 2010
Temple Emanuel
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Prelude
Bill Marfink
Organist, Temple Emanuel
Director, Shir Shalom Choir

Welcome
Rabbi Michael Schadick
Temple Emanuel

Native American Smudging
Mike Peters
Four Fires Ministry

A Secular Thanksgiving
Jennifer Beahan
Center for Inquiry Michigan

Estaré Agradecido | *In The Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful*
Larry Barton
St. Mary Catholic Church

¡Estaré agradecido, en el Señor me gozaré! Mirad a Dios, no teman,
levanten sus voces al Señor. Levanten sus voces, él está cerca.

*(Translation: In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice! Look
to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near; lift up your voices,
the Lord is near!)*

A Harvest of Gratitude
Reverend Lynda Smith
All Souls Community Church

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

Response: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For this fragile planet earth, its sunsets and seasons, the rich colors of orchard and garden, vineyard and field, for abundant harvest.

Response: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For the harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of life's gifts and reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in our souls.

Response: We give thanks this day.

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

Response: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For our common past and future hopes; our oneness that transcends separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice despite hatred and oppression.

Response: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For faith without fanaticism, for acceptance of one another and freedom for spiritual growth.

Response: 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 and respect human diversity.

Response: We give thanks this day.

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

Response: We give thanks this day.

Leader: For this time to be together and build the beloved interfaith community, a community of all ages that sings its songs, tells its stories, and searches together with courage and with love.

All: We pray that we may live, not by our fears, but by our hopes, not by words but by our deeds. Amen

O Thou Blue Sky: A Hindu Chant
Fred Stella
Self-Realization Fellowship

O Thou blue sky under blue cover
Hast Thou hidden my beloved Lord
Open Thy cover let me discover
My beloved Lord in Thy heart of hearts

Thanksgiving
Dr. Sahibzada, Imam
First Masjid of Grand Rapids
Director, Islamic Center of West Michigan

Leader: The Merciful God created mankind to communicate with each other and He taught His words.

Response: We thank God

Leader: He has arranged guidance for humanity through His messengers.

Response: We thank God.

Leader: He has given us life to submit to Him.

Response: We thank God.

Leader: He has provided us food and shelter.

Response: We thank God.

Leader: We remember and worship Him through His mercy and grace.

Response: We thank God.

Leader: He has provided us an opportunity to sit together in this congregation.

Response: We thank God.

Leader: God says, "If you thank me I will bestow you more." (QFT 14:7)

All: O, Almighty and merciful God, through your blessings give us the best in this world and in the Hereafter. Award us the ability to follow your message sent by You through all the Prophets.

Leader: Our Lord the Almighty God, accept our prayers that we might live side by side in peace, loving and thanking you.

All: Amen

A Song of Praise for Thanksgiving
Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids Gospel Choir

A Buddhist Sangha Meditation on Gratitude
Steve Sampson
Mindfulness Meditation Community of Grand Rapids

Philippians 1:3-11

Nathalie Meyer OP

President, Grand Rapids Dominicans

Odun De & Kra Bin Ye

WaZoBia Drum Ensemble

Josh Dunigan, Jennifer Beahan, Dustin Miller, Emily Byxbe, Ted Jauw and Geoff Lamden

WaZoBia means "come, come, come" in three distinct Nigerian tribal languages. "Come is an invitation of togetherness and represents unity and diversity in community"

Verses from the Koran

Sora 34, Saba'

Imam Morsy Salem

Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

And indeed We bestowed grace on David from us saying, "O you mountains, Glorify Allah with him! And you birds! And We made the iron soft for him. Saying: "Make you perfect coats of mail, and balance well the rings of chain armor, and work you righteousness. Truly I am All-Seer of what you do." And to Solomon the wind, its morning was a month's, and its afternoon was a month's. And We caused a fountain of brass to flow for him, and there were jinn that worked in front of him, by the leave of his Lord. And whosoever of them turned aside from our command, we shall cause him to taste of the torment of the blazing fire. They worked for him as he desired, high rooms, images, basins as large as reservoirs, and cauldrons fixed. "Work you, O family of David with thanks!" But few of my slaves are grateful. Then we decreed death for him, nothing informed them of his death except a little worm of the earth, which kept gnawing away at his stick. So when he fell down, the jinn saw clearly that if they had known the unseen, they would not have stayed in the humiliating torment. Indeed there was for Saba' a sign in their dwelling place, two gardens on the right hand and on the left. Eat of the provision of the Lord and be grateful to Him."

O Sacrum Convivium & Salvation is Created

Whatever 4 or More

Marv Ebbens, Phil Hertel, Tom Macholan, Dan Male, David Male, Roger

Nelson, Frank Van Haven, Joe Veenstra

Westminster Presbyterian

Reflections: Giving Thanks In Our Oneness

Michael Hampton

Bahai's of West Michigan

Yitgadal & Modim Anachnu Lach

(Exalted Be God's Name & We Give Thanks to You)

St. Stephen's Choir and the Shir Shalom Choir

A Bit of Tzedakah

Rabbi Michael Schadick

Temple Emanuel

Benediction

Very Reverend John Geaney CSP

Cathedral of St. Andrew

A Song of Thanksgiving

Pam Rush

Temple Emanuel

We sing now together our song of thanksgiving, rejoicing in good which the ages have wrought, for life that enfolds us, and helps and heals and holds us, and leads beyond the goals which our forebears once sought.

We sing of the freedoms which martyrs and heroes have won by their labor, their sorrow, their pain; the oppressed befriending, our ampler hopes defending, their death becomes our triumph, their loss is our gain.

We sing of earth of earth's bounty, a gift still unfolding in every far continent, region and land; with those of all races, all times and names and places, we pledge ourselves in fellowship firmly to stand.

Postlude

Bill Marfink

Let us all give thanks for our blessings this season with a gift to the Kid's Food Basket. Tables for food donations and baskets for monetary gifts are located at the doorways to the sanctuary and outside the reception room.

Please join us for a reception in the Barbara Padnos Family Religious School Wing.

We thank all of the participating organizations:

All Souls Community Church
Bahai Community of West Michigan
Cathedral of St. Andrew
Catholic Information Center
Center for Inquiry Michigan
Congregation Ahavas Israel
First United Methodist Church
Fountain Street Church
Four Fires Ministry
Grand Rapids Dominicans
Islamic Center of West Michigan
Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute
Mindfulness Meditation Community of West Michigan
Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids
Sacred Space
Self-Realization Fellowship
Shir Shalom Choir
St. John's United Church of Christ
St. Mary Catholic Church
St. Stephen's Church
Temple Emanuel
Westminster Presbyterian Church