

Westchester Clergy Association

Giving thanks to God
from our various faith traditions.



An Interfaith
Community
Thanksgiving

***Sunday, November 22, 4:00 P.M.
7515 Sepulveda Boulevard, Westchester***



Host
*Westchester
United Methodist Church*



As people of faith,
we believe all people are worthy
of respect and honor
because all are created in the image of God
and all respond to the love of God.
This service of thanksgiving is an effort to express
our mutual understanding, respect, and trust
of all people of faith and to share together
in service to the community
as an authentic witness of God's love.

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Festival of Praise

Prelude

Chris Mays on organ

Opening Hymn (*Standing; everyone sings.*)

O God of Earth and Space

To the hymn tune LEONI

O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here And everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree, In shelter from the cold,
In cooling breeze, flowing wells, Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown, Where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life, There You are found.
Inspirer of all thought! Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue, In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns, Where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules, There You are known.
Give us the courage clear To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony In God's shalom.

Your word commands response And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace, In calm or strife.
Our ever-present help, Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end, Eternal God.



Words of Welcome (*Sitting.*)

The Reverend Floyd McKeithen
Westchester United Methodist Church

Opening Prayer *(Remain seated; everyone says.)*

Ahtarva Veda

Homage to you, Breath of Life, for the whole universe obeys you. You are the ruler of all things on earth and the foundation of the earth itself.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the crashes of thunder and in the flashes of lightning. The rain you send gives food to the plants and drink to the animals.

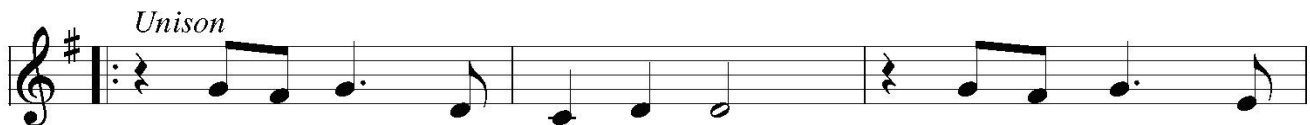
Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the changing seasons, in the hot dry sunshine and the cold rain. There is comfort and beauty in every kind of weather. The plants themselves rejoice in your bounty, praising you in the sweet smell of their blossom. The cattle rejoice, praising you in the pure white milk they give.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in our breathing out and breathing in. At every moment, whatever we are doing, we owe you praise and thanksgiving.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in our birth and in our death. In the whole cycle of life you sustain and inspire us.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the love and friendship we enjoy. When we love one another, we reflect your infinite love. Men and women rejoice in your bounty, praising you in poem and song. The little children rejoice, praising you in their innocent shrieks of laughter. **Amen.**

Hymn *(Standing; everyone sings.)*



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

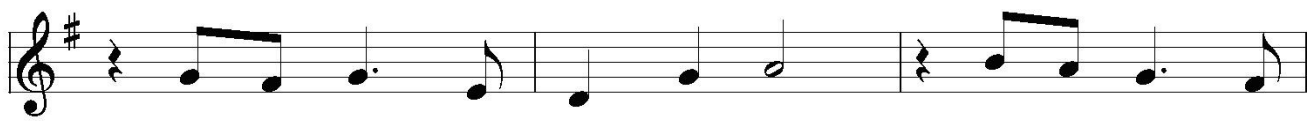


peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will



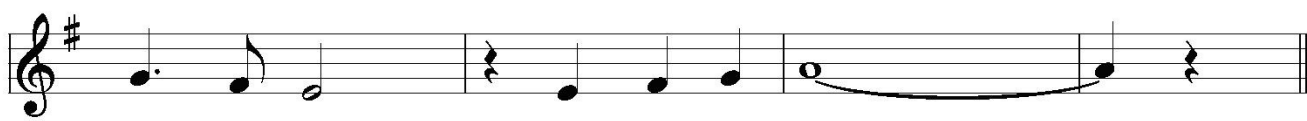
save.
way.
save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will break their hearts of stone,
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide



I will make their dark - ness bright.
Give them hearts for love a - lone.
Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my
I will speak my
I will give my



light to them?
word to them.
life to them.

Whom shall I send? _____
Whom shall I send? _____
Whom shall I send? _____

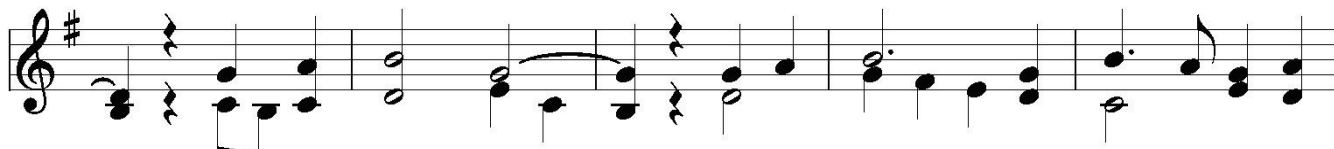
Refrain



Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have



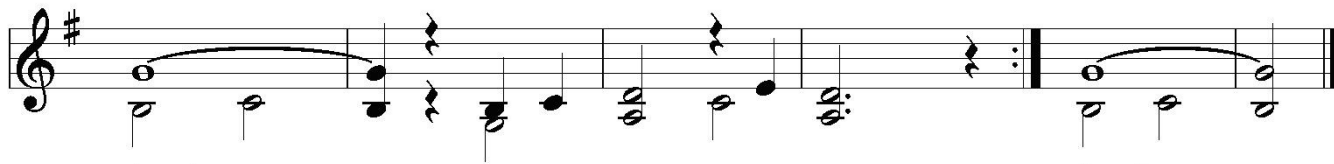
heard you call - ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____



_____ if you lead me, _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my

1. 2.

3.



heart. _____

heart. _____

A Prayer of Thanksgiving from the Hindu Tradition *(Standing; the leader says.)*

Vidya Chaitanya
Sivananda Yoga Center

Taittiriya Upanishad, Book 3, Verses 7-10

Music of the Season *(Sitting; the choir sings.)*

Raise the Song of Harvest Home

George Elvery
Arranged by Mary McDonald

The Wesleyan Choir
Westchester United Methodist Church
under the direction of Dale Van Natta

(The congregation will be asked to stand and sing the words below.)

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take His harvest home, from His field shall purge away all that doth offend that day; give His angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home. Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin. There forever purified in Thy presence to abide. Come with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

A Reading from The Qur'an *(Sitting; the leaders say.)*

Moazen Ben Youcef
Islamic Center of Southern California
Avais Chughtai
Multimedia Director, IslamiCity.com

Chapter 55 *The Benevolent One*

- 1 THE MOST GRACIOUS
- 2 has taught this Qur'an [unto man].
- 3 He has created man:
- 4 He has taught unto him articulate thought and speech
- 5 [At His behest] the sun and the moon run their appointed courses;
- 6 [before Him] prostrate themselves the stars and the trees.
- 7 And the skies has He raised high, and has devised [for all things] a
measure,
- 8 so that you [too, O men,] might never transgress the measure
[of what is right]:
- 9 weigh, therefore, [your deeds] with equity, and cut not the measure
short!
- 10 And the earth has He spread out for all living beings,
- 11 with fruit thereon, and palm trees with sheathed clusters [of dates],
- 12 and grain growing tall on its stalks, and sweet-smelling plants.
- 13 Which, then, of your Lord's favors can you deny?

Musical Offering

Paul Livingstone and Friends

A Reading from the Buddhist tradition.

Music of the Season (*Sitting; the choir sings.*)

A Call to Celebration

Joseph M. Martin

Covenant Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir
with friends from
Culver City Presbyterian Church and the Concert Singers
under the direction of Colleen Cronin
Accompanied by George and Clare Burr

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture, Psalm 100 *(Sitting; the leader says.)*

Rabbi Jonathan Klein
Executive Director CLUE-LA
(Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice)

A Psalm of Acclamation

*(Verbal acclamation of יהוה was part of a kinesthetic act of worship.
You shout. You whoop it up. You process into God's presence.)*

- 1 Shout to יהוה,
o land entire!
- 2 Worship יהוה with gladness,
come before him with singing!
- 3 Know that יהוה,
he is God!
It is he that made us,
and we are his,
his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Come into his gates with acclamation,
his courts with praise!
Acclaim him,
bless his name!
- 5 For יהוה is good,
his kindness everlasting,
his faithfulness for all generations.

Special Music

Hymn *(Standing; everyone sings.)*

"Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to
God the Creator triumphantly raise, who
Fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us. Who
Guides us and leads to the end of our days. God's
Banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us, a
Pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till
Shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as
Forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses and
Sun in its orbit obediently shine, the
Hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the
Depths of the ocean proclaim the Divine. We,
Too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing, with
Glad adoration a song let us raise, till
All things now living unite in thanksgiving. To
God in the highest hosanna and praise!

A Reading from the Christian tradition (*Sitting; the leader says.*)

The Reverend Rachel Allen Tabutol
La Tijera United Methodist Church

Matthew 25:34-40 (From *The Message*)

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’”
Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

Music of the Season (*Sitting; the choir sings.*)

Creating God, Your Fingers Traced

Craig Curry

Covenant Presbyterian Youth and Children’s choirs
Accompanied by Stephen Stump on the recorder
and Clare Burr on piano.

A Reading from the Book of Mormon (*Sitting; the leader says.*)

President Rex Stevens

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints

From Mosiah

14 And even I, myself, have labored with mine own hands that I might serve you, and that ye should not be laden with taxes, and that there should nothing come upon you which was grievous to be borne—and of all these things which I have spoken, ye yourselves are witnesses this day.

18 Behold, ye have called me your king; and if I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then ought not ye to labor to serve one another?

19 And behold also, if I, whom ye call your king, who has spent his days in your service, and yet has been in the service of God, do merit any thanks from you, O how you ought to thank your heavenly King!

20 I say unto you, my brethren, that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole soul has power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and praised you, and has caused that ye should rejoice, and has granted that ye should live in peace one with another—

21 I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants.

Call for Offering (*Sitting.*)

Scott Tanner

Chairman of the Board of Food Pantry LAX

*(Your offering today will benefit the Food Pantry LAX.)
(Make checks payable to the Westchester Clergy Association.)*

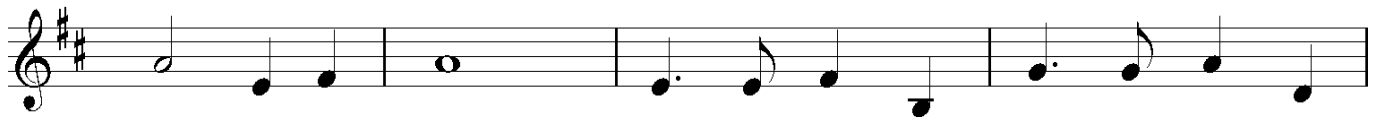
Thanksgiving Hymn (*Standing; everyone sings.*)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be
 3 For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, thanks be to



God. For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion,
 done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,
 God. For the good we all in - her - it,



thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,
 God's will be done. In our world - wide task of car - ing
 thanks be to God. For the won - ders that as - tound us,



si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
 for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests
 for the truths that still con-found us, most of all that



earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 love has found us, thanks be to God.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving *(Standing; everyone says.)*

The Reverend John David Webster
 Westchester Christian Church

God of all days, we thank you for your continuous presence. Renewed and re-created by these holy days, may we be willing to embrace all you have prepared

for us in tomorrow's return to the routine of daily life. We pause and pray for our special intentions as we give thanks for our many blessings [*Pause for special prayers that may be offered either silently or aloud*], and we remember in prayer the needs of our families and all those we love. We reach out tonight and touch them with the kiss of peace and surrender tonight to sleep and your divine embrace. God of day and night, of life and death, we place ourselves into your holy hands. **Amen.**

Blessing (*Standing.*)

Monsignor Norman Priebe
St. Jerome Catholic Church

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart. **Amen.**

May God bless you with anger,
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. **Amen.**

May God bless you with tears,
To shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain
to joy. **Amen.**

And may God bless you with enough foolishness,
To believe that you can make a difference in this world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn (*Standing; everyone sings as the clergy process.*)

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -
Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha -

march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
re - mos en la luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos en la

we are march - ing in the light of God. —
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' —
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. —

light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the
nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -
luz de Dios mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de, la

we are march - ing in the light of God. —
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. —
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. —

Last Verse

We have friendship in the light of God
 We have friendship in the light of God
 We have friendship in the light of God
 We have friendship in the light of God

We are marching, marching,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

Postlude

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