

An Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service

“A Thanksgiving to Remember”

*We give thanks for our many blessings,
Pray for the peace and health of our city, state, nation and world, and*

**Honor the 100th Birthday of Founder and Past Chair
of the San Francisco Interfaith Council**

Rita R. Semel



Tuesday, November 23, 2021

10:00 am

*Congregation Emanu-El
2 Lake Street, San Francisco*

Program

Processional

"Morning Has Broken"

Lyrics by Eleanor Farjeon and Music "Bunessan" (traditional Scottish song)

Congregation Emanu-El Cantor *Marsha Attie*

(due to COVID protocols congregational singing is discouraged)

Welcome

Nancy Nielsen, SFIC Board Chair

Reading of the SFIC Interfaith Statement

Wilma Batiste, SFIC Board Secretary / Neighborhood Baptist Church

"This is an interfaith community. Whatever our individual belief, it can be freely expressed here with no apologies. If we are invited to offer a prayer in this setting, it should be offered according to the tradition with which we identify. If we are invited to speak on a subject from the perspective of our tradition, we are free to do so without fear of offending those who come from another tradition. We come together as people of faith to learn from each other that we might better understand the multiplicity of faith traditions in our city and in our world."

Reading of Recognition Statement That We Gather on Indigenous Lands

Rev. Monique Ortiz, SFIC Board Member,

Pastor, St. Mary and St. Martha Lutheran Church and

Director of Community Programs, San Francisco Night Ministry

"We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As Guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples."

Ohlone Indian Prayer in the Four Directions

Andrew Galvan of the Ohlone Nation, SFIC Board Member and

Curator of Old Mission Dolores

Calls to Worship

Fatih Ates, Director of the Pacifica Institute

Rev. Elaine Donlin, SFIC Board Member and

Minister Assistant, Buddhist Church of San Francisco

Musical Selection

"Henei Ma Tov" (Psalm 133)

Congregation Emanu-El Cantor *Marsha Attie* and Cantor Emeritus *Roz Barak*

(due to COVID protocols congregational singing is discouraged)

Congregation Welcome

Congregation Emanu-El Senior Rabbis *Beth and Jonathan Singer*

Candle Lighting Prayers for Healing and Thanksgiving in These Times of the COVID-19

(with Refrain led by Congregation Emanu-El Cantor Marsha Attie and Cantor Emeritus Roz Barak)

*Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, SFIC Vice Chair / First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF Senior Minister
Commissioner Hala Hijazi, SFIC Board Member / SF Human Rights Commission
Rev. Tova Green, San Francisco Zen Center
Rev. Norman Fong, SFIC Board Member / Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Sister Sukanya Belsare, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center
Paige Hosking, SFIC Board Member / Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Marvin K. White, Minister of Celebration at Glide Memorial Church
Swami Vedananda, SFIC Board Member / Vedanta Society of Northern California*

A Prayer for our City, its Residents and our Mayor

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, SFIC Vice Chair / First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF Senior Minister

Mayor's Remarks

*The Honorable London N. Breed
Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco*

Musical Selection

"Modim"

(daily prayer of Thanksgiving)

*Congregation Emanu-El Cantor Marsha Attie and Cantor Emeritus Roz Barak
(due to COVID protocols congregational singing is discouraged)*

Prayer Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Father Paul Fitzgerald, S.J., President, University of San Francisco

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Remarks and Introduction of Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Michael G. Pappas, SFIC Executive Director

Thanksgiving Address

*Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives*

Blessings for SFIC Founder and Past Chair Rita R. Semel

On the Occasion of her Centennial Birthday

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Mark Handley Andrus, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California
Bishop Minerva Carcaño, The CA-NV Conference of the United Methodist Church
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Father Patrick Summerhays, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of San Francisco*

Response

SFIC Founder and Past Chair Rita R. Semel

Musical Selection

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

(Original Lyrics and Music by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller)

Congregation Emanu-El Cantor *Marsha Attie* and Cantor Emeritus *Roz Barak*
(due to COVID protocols congregational singing is discouraged)

Reading of the Lincoln Proclamation Establishing Thanksgiving

Father Mesrop Ash, SFIC Board Member / St. John Armenian Apostolic Church

Proclamation by the President of the United States of America 3 October 1863 - The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the Source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the field of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than theretofore. Population has steadily increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.



Benediction

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown

Pastor of the historic Third Baptist Church and
President of the San Francisco Chapter of the NAACP

Recessional

“God Bless America”

(Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin)

Congregation Emanu-El Cantor *Marsha Attie* and Cantor Emeritus *Roz Barak*
(due to COVID protocols congregational singing is discouraged)

Respecting COVID-19 protocols and precautions, a physical offering will not be taken at this service. Those wishing to honor SFIC Founder and Past Chair Rita R. Semel and perpetuate her vision for interfaith harmony and service in our City are welcome and encouraged to donate online to the Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund at:

<https://sfic.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate?checkout=2256>



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