



Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

San Francisco

**INTERFAITH
COUNCIL**



Thursday, November 23, 2023, 10 a.m.
Interfaith Chapel at the Presidio

Annual Service of Thanksgiving

INTERFAITH CHAPEL AT THE PRESIDIO • 23 NOVEMBER 2023 • 10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

Gathering

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Leader The earth is God's and all that is in it,

People **the world and all who dwell therein.**

We acknowledge that we stand on the territory of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples.

We recognize we stand on the territory of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who, for many generations, were stewards of the lands and waterways of what is now the San Francisco Bay Area.

We honor and respect the enduring relationship between these peoples and this land.

We acknowledge the evils of colonialism and racism, and the persistent effects of genocide and land theft on Indigenous peoples today.

We claim our responsibility to be participants in a just future, grounded in truth, and redeemed in faith from the remnants of this past.

HYMN

Sung by all, standing.

Forest Green



1 I sing the al - migh - ty power of God, that made the moun - tains rise,
2 I sing the good - ness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known,
that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the lof - ty skies.
who formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;
I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,
the moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze u - pon the sky!
and ev - ery - where that I could be, thou, God, art pres - ent there.

text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; music: English Melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

INVOCATION

Rabbi Jill Zimmerman

Celebrating Our Diversity

INTERFAITH COUNCIL WELCOME

The Rev. Canon Debra Low-Skinner

THE INTERFAITH STATEMENT

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.

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

adapted from texts by O. Eugene Pickett,
and *The Book of Common Prayer*

- Leader** For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For this fragile planet earth, and for all who strive to preserve it for future generations:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For our human community, our common past and future hope, and our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For all that is gracious in the lives of friend and stranger, revealing the spark of the divine:
- Congregation** **We offer our thanks.**
- Leader** For our daily food and drink; our homes, families and companions; for all that sustains our lives:
- Congregation** **We offer our thanks.**
- Leader** For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
- Congregation** **We offer our thanks.**
- Leader** For memories of joy and gladness, for present grace and for the hope of delights to come:
- Congregation** **We offer our thanks.**

PERSONAL THANKSGIVINGS

$\text{♩} = 56$

1

Come, come, who - ev - er you are, wan - der - er,

3

wor - ship - er, lov - er of leav - ing. Ours is no car - a - van

4

of de - spair. Come, yet a - gain come.

Words: Adapt. from Rumi, 1207-1273
 ⊕ Music: Lynn Adair Ungar, 1963-

PILGRIMAGE
 Irregular

In Thanksgiving, Prayer and Praise

THE CONTEXT OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi

THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION

Ms. Wilma Batiste

Reader On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the following Thanksgiving Proclamation:

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields 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 even soften 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 provoke their aggressions, 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 fields 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 heretofore. 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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS FROM THE TRADITIONS

Mr. Kashif Abdullah
The Rev. John Buehrens
The Rev. Canon Debra Low-Skinner

PRAYERS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

Rabbi Jill Zimmerman
Fr. Donal Godfrey

BODHISATTVA PRAYER FOR HUMANITY

after Shantideva, 7th c. Indian Buddhist sage

All **May I be a guard for those who need protection**
a guide for those on the path
a boat, a raft, a bridge for those who wish to cross the flood.
May I be a lamp in the darkness
a resting place for the weary
a healing medicine for all who are sick
a vase of plenty, a tree of miracles
and for the boundless multitudes of living beings.
May I bring sustenance and awakening
enduring like the earth and sky
until all beings are freed from sorrow
and all are awakened.

OFFERING BENEFITING THE INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER

[Thank you for your generous support of the Interfaith Winter Shelter,](#)
[now celebrating its 35th anniversary.](#)

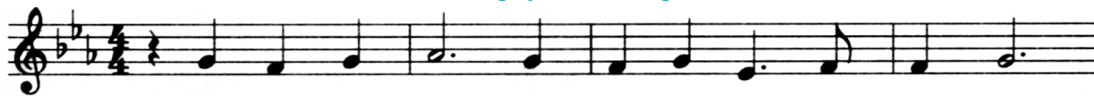


Going Forth

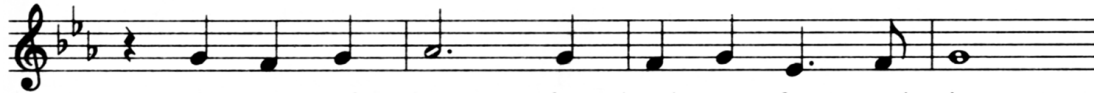
HYMN

Sung by all, standing.

Finlandia



1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3. May truth and free - dom come to ev' - ry na - tion,



1. A song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 2. And sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
 3. May peace a - bound where strife has raged so long.



1. This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
 2. But oth - er lands have sun-light too, and clo - ver,
 3. That we may seek to love and build to - geth - er



1. Here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 2. And skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 3. A world u - nit - ed, right - ing ev' - ry



1. But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing _____
 2. O hear my song, O God of all the na - tions, _____
 3. A world u - nit - ed in its love of free - dom, _____



1. _____ With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 2. _____ A song of peace for their land and for mine.
 3. _____ pro - claim - ing peace to - geth - er in one song.

Text: Stz. 1-2, Lloyd Stone. © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co. Stz. 3, Dale Wood © 1968 Lorenz Publishing Co.

VOLUNTARY

INTERFAITH REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Kashif Abdullah, Director, San Francisco Islamic School and SFIC Board of Directors

The Rev. John Buehrens, Minister Emeritus, The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Ms. Wilma Batiste, Neighborhood Baptist Church, SFIC Board of Directors

Fr. Donal Godfrey, University Chaplain, Associate Director for Faculty and Staff Spirituality,
University of San Francisco

The Rev. Canon Debra Low-Skinner, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of California,
and Vice-Chair, SFIC Board of Directors

The Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi, Canon Precentor and Director of Interfaith Engagement, Grace
Cathedral, SFIC Board of Directors

Rabbi Jill Zimmerman, Executive Director, Northern California Board of Rabbis

Ms. Grace Renaud, Pianist and Cantor

About the San Francisco Interfaith Council

OUR MISSION

“Celebrating our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bringing people together to build understanding and serving our community.”

WHO WE SERVE

We count as our constituents the 800 congregations in the City of San Francisco, their respective judicatories, sectarian educational and healthcare institutions, and the faith-based social service agencies that provide the social safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

CONVENING, COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCACY

The San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) convenes and amplifies the voice of our City’s faith-based community on such issues as homelessness, disaster preparedness response and recovery, civil and human rights, housing affordability, immigration and so much more.

OUR WORK

During this time of social change in San Francisco, civic leaders and the public view the SFIC as the “go-to” organization for mobilizing our City’s religious communities. Our diverse constituencies turn to us for resources, referral and representation. Our robust relationships and communications network of over 5,600 e-subscribers allow the SFIC to bring together and mobilize San Francisco’s faith-based community to create an effective, combined force for service and issues of public policy, so that we may accomplish together what no single faith entity can do alone.