



# Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

**San Francisco**

**INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL**



Thursday, November 28, 2024, 10 a.m.  
Interfaith Chapel at the Presidio

# Annual Service of Thanksgiving

INTERFAITH CHAPEL AT THE PRESIDIO • 28 NOVEMBER 2024 • 10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

## Gathering

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REFLECTION

Across the United States, there are currently 574 federally-recognized sovereign Tribal Nations, all uniquely different. We can acknowledge the origins of America and how colonialism still impacts Indigenous People and communities. In honoring the truth in this land, we begin by acknowledging this past and turn to healing for our shared future.

We encourage everyone, in serving these truths of healing, reconciliation, and justice, to begin by learning about the contemporary context of the Indigenous Peoples and the history of the lands and waters. One suggested reading: *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask* by Anton Treuer (Young Readers Edition also available).  
adapted from Ken Harper, Cherokee Two-Spirit

WELCOME

The Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi

HYMN

Sung by all, standing.

*Laßt uns erfreuen*



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es,  
2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the  
3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your  
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings



1 let us sing: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
2 heavens a - loft, O sing prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing  
3 Lord to hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -  
4 on our way, O sing prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,  
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
4 fruits that in you grow, let them God's glo - ry al - so show:

*Refrain*

O sing prai - ses, O sing prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

text: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.; music: melody from Auserlesene  
Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## Giving Thanks this Day

### THE INTERFAITH STATEMENT

read by Mr. Kashif Abdhullah

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

led by Rev. Junchol Lee

- 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 give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For our daily food and drink; our homes, families and companions; for all that sustains our lives:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**
- Leader** For memories of joy and gladness, for present grace and for the hope of delights to come:
- Congregation** **We give thanks this day.**

### PERSONAL THANKSGIVINGS

Asher Weston,  
Congregation Sherith Israel

In beauty happily I walk ❖ in beauty happily I walk

With beauty before me I walk ❖ with beauty before me I walk

With beauty behind me I walk ❖ with beauty behind me I walk

With beauty above me I walk ❖ with beauty above me I walk

With beauty all around me I walk ❖ with beauty all around me I walk

It is finished in beauty ❖ it is finished in beauty

text: Dawn Chant from Navajo Nightways Ceremony (Episcopal Diocese of the Navajo); Copying for local use is permitted and encouraged.; music: Johannes Sumary; from Music for Liturgy, published by St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco, reprinted with permission; Copying for local use is permitted and encouraged

## Proclaiming Thanksgiving

### INTRODUCTION

The Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi

### THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION

read by Rev. Fred Harrell

**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.

SILENT MEDITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

[Thank you for your generous support of the Interfaith Winter Shelter.](#)



# The Prayers

FROM OUR DIVERSE TRADITIONS

Mr. Kashif Abdullah  
 Rev. Fred Harrell  
 Rev. Junchol Lee  
 Col. Ret. USA Deborah Dacumos  
 Mr. Dennis Hendricks

BENEDICTION

read by the Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi  
 excerpted from a poem by Maya Angelou,  
 "Continue: On the Occasion of Oprah Winfrey's Fiftieth Birthday"

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.

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## INTERFAITH REPRESENTATIVES

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

**Col. Ret. USA Deborah Dacumos**, St. Dominic's Catholic Church and SFIC Board of Directors

**Rev. Fred Harrell**, City Church San Francisco and SFIC Board of Directors

**Mr. Dennis Hendricks**, St Agnes Catholic Church Interfaith Team

**Rev. Junchol Lee**, Lead Minister, San Francisco Swedenborgian Church of San Francisco and SFIC Board of Directors

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

**Asher Weston**, Congregation Sherith Israel

**Ms. Grace Renaud**, Organist 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.