

# Third Annual Interfaith Service



Celebrated by Temple Anshe Hessed &  
Community United Church

November 12, 2023

11:00 AM

## Interfaith Service:



Interfaith services are as wonderful and educational as they are a careful balance between celebrating commonalities and respecting our differences.

Today we bring together Jewish and Christian perspectives to better understand and appreciate one another. Our faiths traditions are often designated as *Abrahamic Religions*, because we each trace our spiritual ancestry back to the story of Abraham.

As we move through the service today, let us not try to make “all religions the same,” but let us celebrate that in many of our principles and precepts, we find common ground..



### Service Leadership:

Rabbi Rob Morais, Temple Anshe Hessed  
Jesse Thorpe, Cantorial Soloist, Temple Anshe Hessed  
Director of Music Cheryl Strecker, Community United Church  
Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Pastor, Community United Church  
Joy Johnson, Pastor, Community United Church

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

“Sanctuary” Cantorial Soloist Jesse Thorpe

## The Gathering

Invocation (*Adapted from Words for Worship, Unitarian Universalist Association, by Ian W. Riddell*)

One: Come, come, whoever you are. Do you hear that voice calling you, calling us?

**All: That voice which calls us together today, in this room, made holy by our presence and by the sacred breath we share in our singing and speaking and silence.**

One: That voice which calls us to remember that we are not alone and that we are inextricably linked to all other life—woven into a vast tapestry of existence of which we are a powerful, integral, and holy part.

**All: And just as we have been called together here today, we act as the voice—and the heart—and the hands of another call. The call to walk with the wanderers, to sing and dance with the worshippers, to proclaim the memory of those who have taken their leave, and to wrap the despairing and the broken in the arms of love and community.**

One: We are called back—again and again—to the covenant work of justice, humility, steadfast faithfulness, peace, and love.

**All: For this we are here together today! Let us see in one another our similarities and our differences—honoring both—so that we may work together, honestly, to make a better world.**

\* Opening Hymn

“The God of Abraham Praise” #16

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,  
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your Spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;  
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
Your love shall be our strength our stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;  
Who was, and is, and is to be, for-e’er the same!

\*Opening Prayer

# Statement of Solidarity in the Face of Tragedy

One: People of faith, reason, and goodwill, as we recognize and celebrate faith neighbors today, let us also be mindful that our world has once again been upset by acts of violence—most notably with the October 7 attack of Israel by Hamas, and the ongoing conflict. No statement will capture all of the hurt, grief, or complexity. No statement will satisfy everyone. But this we affirm: we must stand with victims. We must stand against terrorism of any kind. We dare not look away from the pain and suffering of our fellow human beings. And if we pray, we must rise from our knees and do what we can to encourage real justice—for it is only from justice that any meaningful peace will come.

**All: God of Mercy, heal our broken hearts. God of Peace, sustain our broken hearts. God of Comfort, encourage our broken hearts.**

## **Tolling of the Bells & Candle Lighting**

Special Music “Prayer for Peace – Shalom Rav” Cantorial Soloist Jesse Thorpe

## **Veterans’ Day Commemoration**

(Adapted from the Rev. John Gundlach, Retired Navy Chaplain, and the UCC’s minister for government chaplaincies)

### **Response Reading & Prayer**

One: In commemoration of Veterans’ Day in the United States, we honor all of those among us who have served in the military. Today we hear words that have not always been offered, *“Thank you for your service.”*

**All: Though these words will never go far enough to bring healing for some wounds, it is one small but important way to acknowledge what veterans have given, especially to the nation they serve.**

One: Though we hate war—and we may disagree about the justifications for particular wars—it is important to recognize the sacrifices of those who have served on our behalf, and to care for them in return.

**All: As people of faith, we acknowledge that we are not yet on the Mountain of the LORD—the place where swords will be transformed into tools of peace.**

One: We still live in the “already” and “not yet” world, where we must strive for peace, with hope to guide us. And so we pray:

**All: God of All Nations, where pain persists, we ask you to heal the wounds of our veterans. Give them peace so they may enjoy the fullness of their lives. We offer thanks for our veterans. Help us to care enough to give them the respect and honor they are due, and strengthen our resolve to build a world modeled on your realm, where war will be pursued no more. This we ask of you, God of Peace. Amen**

*Recognition of our Veterans*

**Song of Reflection** “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” #728

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies  
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past,  
In this free land by you our lot is cast;  
Be now our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,  
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be your strong arm our ever-sure defense;  
Your true religion in our hearts increase,  
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with heaven-born love and grace,  
And songs of praise we’ll lift before your face.

## Interfaith Wisdom on Peace and Justice

### **Wisdom from Judaism**

**First Reading**

**Micah 4:1-4**

In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; <sup>4</sup> but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.



**Responsive Reading** *(From the Task Force on Soviet Jewry of the URJ, 1979)*

One: This is our truth: the One God calls forth being from nothingness, and makes all things one.

**All: Blessed is the Holy One of Israel, in whose Oneness we are one.**

One: But we are not yet one in fact: our human race is broken into fragments, and we wait to be redeemed into a lasting unity.

**All: Blessed is the time to come, when all will at last be one.**

One: While hatred rules the earth, redemption will not come.

**All: Let the day be near when love will rule this world.**

One: Until people return from their exile from each other, redemption will not come.

**All: Let all exile be ended: our exile from one another, the exile of God's presence from our lives.**

One: Until we restore the lawless to their true selves and rekindle in them the spark of God, redemption will not come.

**All: Let us also search out the flaws in our own souls, and struggle to remove them.**

One: While we care only for ourselves, redemption will not come.

**All: Let our hearts be moved by the misery of others and dare what must be dared.**

## Wisdom from Christianity

### Second Reading

**Matthew 5:1-10**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



**Responsive Reading** (From, "A Network of Mutuality," by Martin Luther King, Jr.)

One: We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny.

**All: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.**

One: There are some things in our social system to which all of us ought to be maladjusted.

**All: Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love can do that.**

One: We must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation.

**All: The foundation of such a method is love.**

One: Before it is too late, we must narrow the gaping chasm between our proclamations of peace and our lowly deeds which precipitate and perpetuate war [and violence].

**All: One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal.**

One: We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

**All: We shall hew out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope.**



**A Conversation on Judaism and Christianity**

Rabbi Morais & Pastor Rich

- What is Reform Judaism?
  - What is the United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ?
- What are ways in which you find your faith traditions to be misunderstood?
- What would you say are the core elements of your faith tradition?
- Reform Judaism and the United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ are known for taking strong stands of social justice and inclusion. Why is that?
- Religion has been on the decline in the United States. Do you see that trend in your own traditions? What do you think will be the future of religion 10, 15, 25 years from now?
- What, from your faith traditions, brings you hope?

Song

"Ubi Caritas et Amor" #399

*(Please sing twice)*

Where true charity and love abide,  
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.

# Our Response, Sending Forth

Vows for Peace and Justice (*"We Answer the Call of Love, UUA, by Julia Corbett-Hemeyer*)

One: In the face of hate,

**All: We answer the call of love.**

One: In the face of exclusion,

**All: We answer the call of inclusion.**

One: In the face of racism,

**All: We answer of justice for all races.**

One: In the face of fear of the other,

**All: We answer the call of pluralism.**

One: In the face of those who would stoke prejudices,

**All: We answer the call of reason.**

One: In the face of religious intolerance,

**All: We answer the call of diversity.**

One: In the face of narrow nationalism,

**All: We answer the call of global community.**

One: In the face of bigotry,

**All: We answer the call of open-mindedness.**

One: In the face of despair,

**All: We answer the call of hope.**

One: As people of faith and reason, we answer the call of love—

**All: Now more than ever. Amen.**

Special Music & Offertory: "Ose Shalome," Cantorial Soloist Jesse Thorpe





\*Departing Prayer (Adapted from "We Shall Overcome, UUA, by Jonalu Johnstone)

One: We shall overcome. When we can truly celebrate the diversity of contributions and talents offered by all people, we shall overcome hatred and prejudice and oppression.

All: **Let us join together in that commitment to overcome. Let us say together: Amen!**



\*Closing Hymn

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" #614

Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator,  
Children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me!



## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Carol Rodgers in  
Memory of Florena Kurty**

**Today's Elder:** Carol Rodgers

**Deacons:** Sandra Carlson & Patti Rogers

**Next Week's Elder:** Becky Pomeroy

**Deacons:** Nancy Alberico & Michelle Vahey

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 13: Council Meeting 6:30 PM

November 14: Liberty House

November 15: Resonate 6:30 PM

November 19: Service Sunday

November 26: Prayer Service – 9:00 AM

*Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.*

### **WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:**

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Matthew Anderson (Army), DJ Miaczynski (Marines), Jaden O'Hara (Army) & Toby Charlton (Marines)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Sue Scheiwer, Diane Walker, George Churley, Robin Adams, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Ron Celeski, Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pikulski, Randi Johnson, Lillian Hendrickson, Wilma and Janice Skelly, Ethel Davis, Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Patti Rogers, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier, Dave Woledge & Karis Fenton.

### **Council Members:**

Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Conrad.