



Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago is dedicated to building networks of friendship and mutual respect among the faith communities of Chicago and includes leaders representing the great spectrum of religious traditions in our community. CRLMC speaks with a unified moral voice on issues of the day, creates a climate of better interfaith understanding and cooperation, and conducts activities which advance this work.

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Rev. Dr. B. Herbert Martin, Sr., President
Nisan Chavkin, Executive Director

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance

November 27, 2019

**First United Methodist Church
at The Chicago Temple**

**Council of Religious Leaders
of Metropolitan Chicago**

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance

Wednesday, November 27, 2019
Noon to 1:00 PM

First United Methodist Church at
The Chicago Temple
77 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois

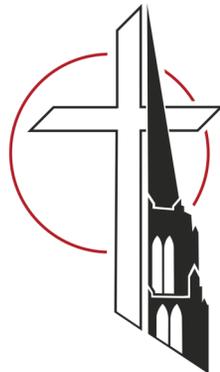
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**Council of Religious Leaders
of Metropolitan Chicago**

In cooperation with

First United
Methodist Church at
**THE
CHICAGO
TEMPLE**



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African Methodist Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
Archdiocese of Chicago
Armenian Orthodox Church
Bahá'ís of Chicago
Baptist General Convention of Illinois
Buddhist Council of the Midwest
Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council
Chicago Board of Rabbis
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Orthodox Church in America
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Religious Society of Friends
Serbian Orthodox Church
Sikh Religious Society
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
United Baptist State Convention of Illinois
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church
Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago
Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
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McCormick Theological Seminary
Meadville-Lombard Theological School
University of Saint Mary of the Lake
Community Renewal Society
InterFaith Connect

Acknowledgements

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago thanks the following for their assistance and participation in this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance:

Barbara Abrajano	Rev. Dr. Walter B. Johnson, Jr.
William Buckholtz	Rev. Dr. B. Herbert Martin, Sr.
Sarah Calabaza	G. Abdullah Mitchell
Anne Cothran	Sr. Lovina Pamette
Mobedyar Boman Damkevala	Emily Price
Rabbi Reni Dickman	Calvin Monson
President Morgan Dubiel	Dr. Daniel Olsen
Imam Tariq El Amin	Dr. Hema Pokharna
Mahen Gosar	Rohinton Rivetna
Gurtej Singh Grewal	Jodi Roy
Dr. Balwant Singh Hansra	Shayda Safapour
Asayo Horibe	Swami Varadananda

Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy
Phillip Kloeckner
Jonni Miklos
&
Staff of First United Methodist
Church at The Chicago Temple

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago gratefully thanks all those who have made contributions for holiday meals. Additional donations can be made at www.crlmc.org.

Program

PRELUDE/PROCESSIONAL

Phillip Kloeckner

Organist

First United Methodist Church

OPENING HYMN

Music *For the Beauty of the Earth, Hymn No. 92*

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the Love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
For our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
For our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
For our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
For our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy
The Chicago Temple

INTRODUCTION

Rohinton Rivetna
Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

AMERICAN INDIAN

Prayer

Sarah Calabaza

Music

William Buckholtz

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Prayer

Calvin Monson
Wilmette Illinois Stake Presidency

HINDUISM

Prayer

Swami Varadananda
Vivekananda Vedanta Society

JAINISM

Prayer

Dr. Hema Pokharna
Mahen Gosar
Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago

ISLAM

Prayer

Imam Tariq El Amin
Masjid Al-Taqwa

BAHÁ'Í

Music

Emily Price
Bahá'ís of Chicago

OFFERING

The Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

We give thanks this day:

For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements.

For our human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom.

For human liberty and sacred rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.

Reverend O. Eugene Pickett

ZOROASTRIANISM

Prayer for Thanksgiving

In the name of the Lord who is divine, who is gracious, giver of life, and who is merciful. Here we praise the Lord Ahura Mazda for giving us to till this land, for giving us the Law of righteousness, for giving us water, for giving us the food and vegetation, for giving us the beneficent light, for giving us the mother earth, and for giving us all things that are good. We praise God on this special occasion of Thanksgiving.

Truth is good

Truth is best

Truth is happiness

Happiness comes to those who are good for the sake of being good.

PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY

Prayer of Thanksgiving

From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, the Lord's name be praised. O God of grace, Creator and Sustainer of life, who commanded light out of darkness and holds the whole world in your hand, we thank you for making us in your image to live with each other in love. O God of light, Redeemer of the world, whose love we have seen in Jesus Christ, we thank you that in life and in death we belong to you. And for your Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith, and guides our steps, and molds and mends our lives, who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship; we praise you O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SIKHISM

Sorat'h, Fifth Mehl:

He did not take my accounts into account; such is His forgiving nature.

He gave me His hand, and saved me and made me His own; forever and ever, I enjoy His Love.

The True Lord and Master is forever merciful and forgiving.

My Perfect Guru has bound me to Him, and now, I am in absolute ecstasy.

The One who fashioned the body and placed the soul within, who gives you clothing and nourishment

- He Himself preserves the honor of His slaves. Nanak is forever a sacrifice to Him.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib 619

ZOROASTRIANISM

Prayer

Mobedyar Boman Damkevala
Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago

JUDAISM

Prayer

Rabbi Reni Dickman
Chicago Board of Rabbis

PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY

Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Walter B. Johnson, Jr.
Greater Institutional AME Church

BUDDHISM

Prayer

Asayo Horibe
President, Buddhist Council of Midwest

SIKHISM

Prayer

Gurtej Singh Grewal
Sikh Religious Society

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

Music

Sr. Lovina Pammit
Archdiocese of Chicago

CLOSING

Music

Nisan Chavkin
Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

America the Beautiful, Hymn No. 696

RECESSIONAL

Phillip Kloeckner
The Chicago Temple

*Donations collected during the Observance will be used
to provide holiday meals for those in need.
Please make checks payable to: **CRLMC***

AMERICAN INDIAN

Great Spirit of Light, come to me out of the East (red) with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in my words, let there be light on my path that I walk. Let me remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let me be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

Great Spirit of Love, come to me with the power of the North (white). Make me courageous when the cold wind falls upon me. Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes me squint. Let me move through life ready to take what comes from the north.

Great Life-Giving Spirit, I face the West (black), the direction of sundown. Let me remember everyday that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great sky for setting, so that when it is my time to meet you, I can come with glory.

Great Spirit of Creation, send me the warm and soothing winds from the South (yellow). Comfort me and caress me when I am tired and cold. Unfold me like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. As you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to me, so that I may grow close to you in warmth. Man did not create the web of life, he is but a strand in it. Whatever man does to the web, he does to himself.

Chief Seattle, Prayer to the Four Directions

BAHÁ'Í FAITH

O Thou compassionate Lord, Thou Who art generous and able! We are servants of Thine sheltered beneath Thy providence. Cast Thy glance of favor upon us. Give light to our eyes, hearing to our ears, and understanding and love to our hearts. Render our souls joyous and happy through Thy glad tidings. O Lord! Point out to us the pathway of Thy kingdom and resuscitate all of us through the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Bestow upon us life everlasting and confer upon us never-ending honor. Unify mankind and illumine the world of humanity. May we all follow Thy pathway, long for Thy good pleasure and seek the mysteries of Thy kingdom. O God! Unite us and connect our hearts with Thy indissoluble bond. Verily, Thou art the Giver, Thou art the Kind One and Thou art the Almighty.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

JAINISM

May the sacred stream of AMITY flow forever in my heart
May the universe prosper, such is my cherished desire

May my heart sing with ecstasy at the sight of the virtuous;
May my life be an offering at their feet.

May my heart bleed at the sight of
the wretched, cruel, and the poor;
And may tears of compassion flow
from my eyes.

May I always be there to show the
path to the pathless wanderers of life;
And if they should not harken to me,
may I abide patiently.

May the spirit of goodwill enter into
our hearts; May we sing altogether;
The Immortal song of Brotherhood,
The immortal song of Sisterhood.
Brotherhood, Sisterhood.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

We give thanks unto You O Lord, who has gathered us this day and has put into our mouths words of praise. We glorify You O Sovereign One, knowing that You are ever-mindful of Your children who are in need of Your mercy and philanthropy. We entreat You O God of our salvation, send down Your aid upon us who stand before the presence of Your Holy Glory, and implant in us the love of Your blessed commandments so that we may both think and do such things as are well-pleasing in Your sight. For You are our sanctification, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

from the order of Matins

JUDAISM

Worship Adonai in gladness, come before God with joy.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; with gratitude sing out God's praise.

Adonai, Creator of the heavens and the earth, provides food for the hungry with mercy, and brings justice to the oppressed.

Praise the Creator who works great wonders, who ennobles us from birth, who treats us with compassion.

God covers the sky with clouds, sending rain, bringing forth bread from the earth to sustain us, providing wind to gladden the human heart.

God has brought peace to our borders and has satisfied us with choice wheat.

God has blessed us with liberty, with noble dreams, and with the pursuit of happiness.

Give thanks to Adonai, for God is good. God's love endures forever.

God crowns the year with goodness, and the fields yield a rich harvest.

The hills are covered with happiness, and the meadows are clothed with sheep; the valleys, adorned with corn.

How shall we thank God for our blessings?

Let us share our bread with the hungry; let us not turn away from the needy.

Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless, help those who have no help.

Let us not take our blessings for granted. Let us share them with others, with thanks.

Sing a new song for Adonai.

Where the faithful gather, let God be praised.

God's love endures forever.

Let us share in that love with our life.

ANGLICAN CHRISTIANITY

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p 246

BUDDHISM

Sutra of Loving Kindness

May all be filled with joy and peace.

May all beings everywhere,

The strong and the weak,

The great and the small,

The meek and the powerful,

The subtle and the gross:

May all beings everywhere,

Both seen and unseen,

Dwelling far off or nearby,

Being, or waiting to become:

May all be filled with lasting joy.

Let no one deceive another,

Let no one anywhere despise another,

Let no one out of anger or resentment

Wish suffering to anyone at all.

Just as a mother with her own life

Protects her child, her only child, from hurt,

So within yourself let grow

A boundless love for all creatures.

Let your love flow outward through the whole universe

To its full height, depth, and broad extent,

Then, as you stand or walk,

Sit or lie down,

As long as you are awake,

Strive for this with a one-pointed mind:

Your life will bring heaven on earth.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

A Catholic Thanksgiving prayer

Loving God,
who created and sustains the universe,
who loved us all into being,
and who gives us every good thing,
we thank you for the blessings
that you bring into our lives.
We thank you for the gift of life itself,
which you gave us in our mothers' wombs.
We thank you for the fresh start of each new day,
which is a sign of your renewing and creative love.
And we thank you for our friends, our families,
our neighbors and our coworkers,
whose human love is an image
of your divine care.
Increase our gratitude this Thanksgiving Day,
and help us to recognize all the good things
that we have, both large and small.
And magnify our desire to share
what we have with others,
so that they too may be
grateful to you,
Loving God.
Amen.

Jesuit Father James Martin

ISLAM

Duah (Prayer for Thanksgiving):

May we bow and submit our hearts and souls to our Creator.
We praise You Lord, who has granted us all that which we have
received. On this day of thanksgiving we pray that our words and
deeds exemplify Your spirit of graciousness and compassion in
our interactions with humankind, particularly with those who
have sought refuge in the United States from Syria and
Myanmar. They are our brothers and sisters who call upon us for
help in this, their time of need. May we keep in remembrance
the bounty You have given us; may we be thankful for the
blessings You have bestowed upon us; and may we be
compassionate to our neighbors in need, whether they be here
or abroad.

HINDUISM

Oh Lord, lead us from the unreal to the Real,
Lead us from darkness to Light,
And lead us from death to Immortality.

May all be free from dangers,
May all realize what is good,
May all be actuated by noble thoughts,
May all rejoice everywhere.

May all be happy,
May all be free from disease,
May all realize what is good
May none be subject to misery.

May the wicked become virtuous,
May the virtuous attain tranquility,
May the tranquil be free from bonds,
May the freed make others free.

May good betide all people,
May the sovereign righteously rule the earth,
May all beings ever attain what is good,
May the worlds be prosperous and happy.

May the clouds pour rain in time,
May the earth be blessed with crops,
May all countries be freed from calamity,
May holy men live without fear.

May the Lord, the destroyer of sins,
The presiding Deity of all sacred works, be satisfied.
For, He being pleased, the whole universe becomes pleased,
He being satisfied, the whole universe feels satisfied.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for
good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord,
that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest
in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye
do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

Book of Mormon, Alma 37:37