

Thanksgiving Interfaith Gathering

Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7:00pm

Shared Worship Service of the Mount Olive Clergy and Congregations
from the sanctuary of Christ Episcopal Church, Budd Lake

Quote and Photo for Meditation

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Photo courtesy of Unsplash website (Pro Church Media)

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

PRESERVICE MUSIC *Serenade, by Joseph Hayden*

Rev. Serena Rice, flautist

WELCOME

Rabbi Dr. Daniel Zucker, MOCA President

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH – Reading from Psalm 107:1-3

English read by Father Wayne Sherrer; Hebrew chanted by Rabbi Daniel Zucker

הַדְנוּ לַיהוָה כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ:

“O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God’s steadfast love is eternal!”

וַיֹּאמְרוּ גְאוּלַי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר גָּאֵלָם מִיַּד-צָר:

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those whom God redeemed from adversity.

וּמֵאֲרָצוֹת קְבוּצִים מִמִּזְרָח וּמִמְעַרְבֵי מִצְפּוֹן וּמִיָּם:

Those whom God gathered in from the lands,
from east and west,
from the north and from the south.

OPENING SONG: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

TUNE: DIX

1. For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to You we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to You we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to You we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For the joy of human love, Sibling, partner, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above; For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to You we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (spoken in unison)

Rev. Serena Rice

**Creator God, whose Spirit moved over the faces of the waters,
who gathers the sea into their places,
and directs the courses of the rivers,
who sends rain upon the earth that it should bring forth life:
We praise you for the gift of water.**

**Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land,
whose hands have shaped us out of the dust of the earth,
who has formed the soils and made this earth
a place of beauty and abundance:**

**We give you thanks for the gift of soil and water all that they
provide.**

**Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in these and all
your gifts,
that we might receive them with gratitude,
care for them with love,
and generously share them with all your creatures
to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen**

SHARING WORDS OF FAITH

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE: Deuteronomy 26:9-12

Hebrew and English chanted by Rabbi Daniel Zucker

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 4:4-9

English read by Rev. Sharon Sheridan Hausman

MESSAGE: *Giving Your Best*

Rev. Lorna Woodham

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

MUSICAL OFFERING: *With My Whole Heart*, by Ronald A. Nelson

Performed by a combined choir

Director: Benjamin Schroeder, Accompanist: Argaille Di Matteo

CALL TO OFFERING for the Mount Olive Food Pantry

Rev. Matt Jones

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Improvisational Sacred Music on Thanksgiving Themes*

Argaille Di Matteo

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Corinne Kilkeary & Rev. Matt Jones

SONG

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

TUNE: AUSTRIAN HYMN

1. God You spin the whirling planets
Fill the seas and spread the plain
Mold the mountains fashion blossoms
Call forth sunshine wind and rain
We created in your image
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice grace and mercy
And the truth that makes us free
2. You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community
When we blur Your gracious image
Focus us and make us whole
Healed and strengthened as Your people
We move onward toward Your goal

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (responsively)

Rev. Meekyung Kim

God of wonder,

We thank You for the beauty of Your creation, especially in this community we call home: for starry nights and sunlit days; for woods and lakes; for foxes and wild turkeys and flocks of geese.

Make us faithful stewards of this precious earth.

God of abundance,

We thank You for the bounty of our harvests and for all who work to bring food to our tables, from the fields to the kitchens.

Bless the fruits of our land and labors.

God of wisdom,

We thank You for all of the parents, teachers, coaches and clergy who instruct our children and call us all into deeper wisdom.

Guide us in being loving and positive role models of life-long learning.

God of healing,

We thank You for doctors, nurses and scientists who have cared for us and guided us through the pandemic. And we thank You for all who continue to work for the health and well-being of all who are vulnerable or in need.

Help us to care for all our neighbors.

God of love,

We thank You for the gift of family and friends and for the beautiful breadth and diversity of our community.

Keep us close to one another and to You. Amen.

AARONIC BLESSING (Numbers 6:23-27)

Fr. Stan Barton and Rabbi Daniel Zucker

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ:

May the Lord bless you and protect you!

יְאֵר יְהוָה | פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי וְיַחַנְדֶּךָ:

May the Lord deal kindly and graciously with you!

יֵשׂא יְהוָה | פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי וְיַשֵּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

May the Lord bestow divine favor upon you and grant you peace!

POSTLUDE *Postlude on AUSTRIAN HYMN* by F. J. Haydn, arr. Melody Bober

Benjamin Schroeder

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We give thanks for the musicians who provided music for this service: Benjamin Schroeder and Serena Rice of Abiding Peace Lutheran Church, Argaille Di Matteo of United Presbyterian Church, and the members of the joint choir.

Thanks are due to the technical team responsible for the filming and remote access for this service: Deborah Burkhart and Geoffrey Fish.

All of us are grateful for the opportunity to gather in worship and thanksgiving together with all the communities of faith that are a part of the Mount Olive Clergy Association, and the member leaders who represent these communities and our greater community this evening:

White Meadow Temple/Or Hadash of Rockaway, NJ; Rabbi Dr. Daniel M. Zucker

Christ Episcopal Church, Budd Lake, NJ; Reverend Deacon Lorna Woodham

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Flanders, NJ; Rev. Stanley C. Barron, Pastor, and Corrine Kilkeary, Youth Minister.

Flanders United Methodist Church, Flanders, NJ; Rev. Meekyung Choi Kim

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church, Budd Lake, NJ; Rev. Serena Rice, Pastor

Mountaintop Church, Hackettstown, NJ; Rev. Matt Jones, Pastor

St. James' Episcopal Church, Hackettstown, NJ; Father Wayne Sherrer

Chaplain at New Jersey State Prison in Trenton, and supply clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, living in Flanders, NJ; Rev. Sharon Sheridan Hausman

United Presbyterian Church, Flanders, NJ; Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden, Interim Pastor