

13th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service



**Thursday, November 23, 2017
10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Old First Presbyterian Church
1751 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94109



**Sponsored by
The San Francisco
Interfaith Council**

Gathering and Prelude

Larry Marietta, Organist

Opening Hymn “Thank Ye Thankful People, Come”

Hymn No. 367

Opening Prayer and Welcome on Behalf of the Host Congregation

*Rev. Maggi Henderson, Pastor
Old First Presbyterian Church*

Interfaith Statement

*Rita R. Semel, Past Chair
San Francisco Interfaith Council
Congregation Emanu-El*

“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.”

Welcome on Behalf of the San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.
Executive Director*

Reading of President Abraham Lincoln’s Proclamation

*Elizabeth Zupp, Intern
Old First Presbyterian Church*

**Proclamation by the President of the United States of America
3 October 1863**

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful years 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 soften even 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 to provoke their aggression, 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 field 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 theretofore. 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.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed

A. Lincoln

Sacred Words of Thanksgiving from our World Traditions

Buddhist Reflection on Giving Thanks

*Sensei Elaine Donlin, Minister's Assistant
Buddhist Church of San Francisco*

2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (read in Greek and English)

*Cynthia S. Zamboukos
SFIC Program/Administrative Associate
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

*Abby Porth
Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council*

A Muslim Perspective on Thanksgiving

*Hala K. Hijazi
Commissioner, SF Human Rights Commission
Islamic Society of San Francisco*

Giving Thanks

*John McKnight
Disaster Director – Golden State Division
The Salvation Army*

A Thanksgiving Reflection

*Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi
Vice Provost for Diversity & Community Engagement
University of San Francisco
President, San Francisco Public Library Commission*

“America the Beautiful”

Hymn No. 338

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain;
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - a - ting strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years

6 For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
Thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

11 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,

16 And crown thy good with bro - ther - hood, From sea to shin - ing sea.
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine.
Con - firm thy soul in self con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.

Exchange of Peace (the people stand)

Call (by Rev. Maggi Henderson, Pastor, Old First Presbyterian Church)

May God's gift of Peace Be With You

Response: And Also With You

All are invited to share signs of peace with one another.

Offering for the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter (the people sit)

Introduced by Michael G. Pappas, M.Div., Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council

(Checks may be made payable to the San Francisco Interfaith Council)

Offertory

Larry Marietta, Organist

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for the Needs of the World

*Pastor Susan Strouse (First United Lutheran Church) and
The Rev. Mark Stanger, Canon for Formation (Grace Cathedral)*

Dear citizens and people of faith, gathered in this sacred space, God, in the many names we use for the Divine, calls us to the privilege of giving thanks and praise. It is right and proper that all people come together to do so. Let us, therefore, give thanks and praise to God for all those gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for the splendor of creation and for the beauty of this world; for the wonder of life and for the mystery of love.

All: We praise you, O God.

We give thanks and praise for our daily food and drink, for warmth and shelter, for the blessings of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side: For minds to think, hearts to love and hands to serve; for health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play.

All: We praise you, O God.

We give thanks and praise to you, O God, for Your call to accompany those who are near us in this city and are struggling to feel included: those who have lost hope; those in poor health; those who seek comfort in addiction; those who are imprisoned, unemployed, homeless, or lonely. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may be moved to love and care for all of your children as You do.

All: We praise you, O God.

We give thanks and praise for your wondrous and diverse creation of traditions, cultures, people and nations, O God. We pray that the leaders of our nations may appreciate your gifts and steward them wisely. We pray that all hearts may be filled with your peace and yearn for the end of violence. We pray for all who are involved in military actions, as well as their families and those who find themselves in harm's way. May the Spirit of your Wisdom lead us to know the fullness of her true and lasting peace among all people.

All: We praise you, O God.

We give praise and thanks to you, O God, for our brokenness and failures; for it is through our cracks and our humility that your light heals and fills us. Lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Lead us gently on your path, and remind us to work patiently in your service, waiting for the fullness of your time.

All: We praise you, O God.

We give praise and thanks to you, O God, for your faithful gathered here today. Make us a truly united voice of love and compassion, that we may be a reflection of your love and faithfulness for all. Inspire us to be courageous in our faith and hope as we live into your creation. We pray today for one another, as well as ourselves.

All: Fill us with your Spirit, O God, that we may leave here singing your praise.

With these and all the prayers that we bring forward this day as well as all those that rest silently in our hearts let us say the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of our city:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life. Amen.

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Hymn No. 643

Benediction and Dismissal

Offered by

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

“We Shall Overcome” (sung by all)

Hymn No. 379

Next year’s Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving
will be November 22, 2018 10:00 am – 11:00 am

San Francisco

**INTERFAITH
COUNCIL**



Celebrating our
diverse faiths and
spiritual traditions,
the San Francisco
Interfaith Council
brings people together
to build understanding
and serve our
community