

18th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service



“REIMAGINING THANKSGIVING”

We give thanks for our many blessings and pray for the peace and health of our city, state, nation and world.

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022
10:00 am**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109**

Program

Prelude

"Now Thank We All Our God"

(by Johann Sebastian Bach)

Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Processional

Led by Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor-row



- sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



- lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Welcome

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, SFIC Chair
Senior Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Reading of the SFIC Interfaith Statement

The Rev. Canon Debra Low-Skinner, SFIC Vice Chair
Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of California
Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Commission of the Diocese

“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.”

Reading of Recognition Statement That We Gather on Indigenous Lands

Rev. Monique Ortiz, SFIC Board Member
Pastor, St. Mary and St. Martha Lutheran Church and
Director of Community Programs, San Francisco Night Ministry

“We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As Guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.”

Ohlone Indian Prayer in the Four Directions

Andrew Galvan of the Ohlone Nation, SFIC Board Member and
Curator of Old Mission Dolores

Ringling of the Buddhist In Kin Bell

Rev. Tova Green
San Francisco Zen Center

Congregation Welcome

Rev. Lyle Beckman, Interim Pastor
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Candle Lighting Prayers for the Eradication of Hate

Hala Hijazi (Islamophobia)

SFIC Board Member / SF Muslim Leader

Rev. Norman Fong (Anti-Asian Hate)

SFIC Board Member / Associate Pastor, Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

Marvin K. White (Racism)

SFIC Board Member / Minister of Celebration, Glide Memorial Church

Rabbi Jill Zimmerman (Anti-Semitism)

President, Northern California Board of Rabbis

A Prayer for our City, its Residents and our Mayor

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop

Episcopal Diocese of California

Mayor's Remarks

The Honorable London N. Breed

Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco

EILI, EILI (WORDS BY HANNAH SENESH, MUSIC BY DAVID ZEHAVI)

Ei-li, Ei-li, she-lo yi-ga-meir l:o-lam Ha-chol v:ha-yam, rish-rush shel ha- ma-yim, B'rak ha-sha-ma-yim, t'fi-lat ha-a-dam.	אֵלֵי אֵלֵי שְׁלֵא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם הַחֹל וְהַיָּם רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַיָּמִים בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם.
---	--

Eili, Eili, I pray that these things never end:

The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters,

The crash of the heavens, the prayer of the heart.

Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf

SFIC Board Member / Senior Rabbi, Congregation Sherith Israel

Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Prayer Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Father Paul Fitzgerald, S.J., President, University of San Francisco

"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; 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."

Remarks

Michael G. Pappas, SFIC Executive Director

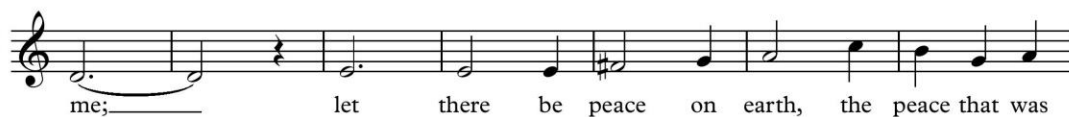
Musical Selection

Led by *Dr. Timothy Zerlang*, Director of Music
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson



Copyright © 1955, 1983 Jan-Lee Music

Reading of the Lincoln Proclamation Establishing Thanksgiving
Paige Hosking, SFIC Board Member
Representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown
Pastor of the historic Third Baptist Church and
President of the San Francisco Chapter of the NAACP

Closing Musical Selection

“Blessings Upon Blessings”

Sister Elizabeth Padilla
Sister Kyoko Kimura on Harp
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

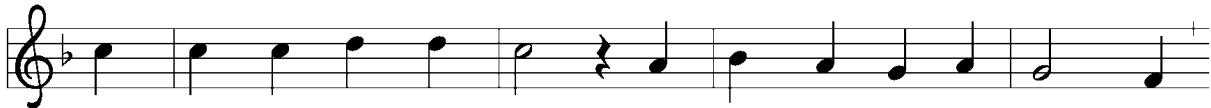
Recessional

Led by *Dr. Timothy Zerlang*, Director of Music
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

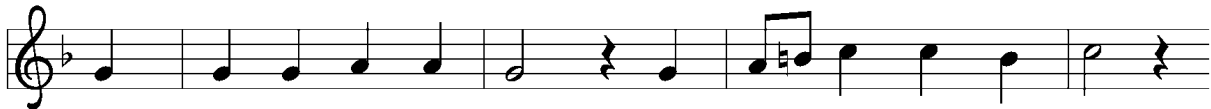
Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Postlude

“Toccata on “Now Thank We All Our God”

(by Egil Hovland)

Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sponsors for Today's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sponsors at \$2,500 Level

Archdiocese of San Francisco
Martin Luther Tower (MLT)

Sponsors at \$1,500 Level

The Boldt Company
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
Episcopal Community Services
Grace Cathedral
Jewish Community Relations Council
San Francisco State University
Sutter Health
University of San Francisco

Sponsors at \$1,000 Level

Ground Floor Public Affairs
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Sponsors at \$600 Level

Catholic Charities
Rev. Harry Chuck and Linda Lee
City Church San Francisco
Episcopal Diocese of California
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Forge Development Partners

*We Thank Those Who Have Supported
the San Francisco Interfaith Council in 2022*

Contributions for General Support and Interfaith Winter Shelter

Agencies

Catholic Charities
Episcopal Community Services
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers
Jewish Community Relations Council
Lutheran Social Services
Mercy Housing Inc.
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

Congregations

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Bethany United Methodist Church
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Christ Church, Lutheran
Church Women United
City Church San Francisco
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Grace Cathedral
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Old First Presbyterian Church
San Francisco Friends Meeting
Sinai Memorial Chapel
St. Francis Lutheran Church
Unity Spiritual Center of San Francisco

Corporations

Amazon
The Boldt Company
Forge Development Partners
Ground Floor Public Affairs
Martin Luther Tower (MLT)
Sutter Health

Educational Institutions

San Francisco State University
University of San Francisco

Foundations

Crankstart Foundation
Colleen & Robert D. Haas Fund
Koret Foundation
The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation
Metta Fund
The San Francisco Foundation
Sierra Health Foundation (Vaccine Equity Campaign)

Judicatories

Archdiocese of San Francisco
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Episcopal Diocese of California
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Japanese American Religious Federation

Individuals

John Ahlback
Rabbi Dan Ain
Muhammad Alabi
Nicholas Andrade
Kathleen Babcock
Elizabeth Baier
Gary Barbaree
Wilma Batiste
Rev. Lyle Beckman
Rev. John Buehrens
Donna and Brian Cahill
Dr. James Campbell
Rev. Harry Chuck and Linda Lee
Col. Deborah Dacumos
Betsy Darr
Mary Liz DeJong
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy
Ron Dudum
Rev. Norman Fong
Andrew Galvan
Sandra Gary

Jennifer Gee
Rev. Marcella Auld Glass
Col. D. Peter Gleichenhaus
Iftekhar Hai
Rev. Fred Harrell
Kholood Hassan
Rev. Maggi Henderson
Hala K. Hijazi
Martha Johnson
Joan Karlin and Paul Resnick
Colette Kelly
Micki Klearman
Howard Kleckner
Rev. Robert Kossler
Dr. M.H. Koya
Diane Lawrence
Father Matt Link, C.PP.S
Rev. Joy-Ellen Lipsky
Loretta Litke
The Rev. Canon Debra Low-Skinner
Ada Lowe and Andrew Lee

Gerald Lundblad
Dr. Lynn Mahoney
John McKnight
Bali Kathleen Nelson
Irene Ng
Nancy Nielsen
Michael G. Pappas
Abby Phelps
Abby and Jason Porth
Jessica Romm
The Rev. Canon Anna Rossi
Mary Russell
Gabriella Schultz
Elisabeth Semel and James Thomson

Rita R. Semel
Mira and Ralph Sinick
Randi Swindel
Marie Tourlos
Thomas Tragardh
Kath Tsakalakis
Judith Vaughn
Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert
Marvin White
Monica Williams
Cynthia S. Zamboukos
Mary J. Zamboukos
Sharon and Peter Zamboukos

*Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund
for Interfaith Work*

2022 Supporters

Louise and Louis Barnett
Jeff Bialik
Diana Conan
Laurel Feigenbaum
Jerilyn Gelt
Glide Foundation
Ashley and Joshua Karlin-Resnick
Rev. & Mrs. Masato Kawahatsu
Keith Kojimoto
Arlene Krieger
Ann and Jim Lazarus
Salesforce.org
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Nicole Stahl

San Francisco

Interfaith Winter Shelter 2021-2022

Host Sites

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
Episcopal Community Services' Canon Kip Senior Center
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Meal Providers

Adkins Family
Bethany United Methodist Church
Buddhist Church of San Francisco
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Castro Rotary Club
Catholic Charities
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
(Golden Gate and Sunset Wards)
Church Ladies
City Church San Francisco
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
Cornerstone Trinity Baptist Church
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Episcopal Community Services' CHEFS Program
First Unitarian Universalist Society of
San Francisco
Girl Scout Troops 31018 and 32574
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church

Holy Trinity Cathedral
Knights of St. Francis
Mission Dolores Basilica
Mission Dolores Basilica Choir
Morse Lodge #257
Noe Valley Ministry
Old St. Mary's Cathedral
Or Shalom Jewish Community
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
RescueSF
St. John Armenian Apostolic Church
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Sts. Peter & Paul Church Chinese Apostolate
St. Stephen Church
St. Teresa of Avila Church
St. Vincent de Paul Conference
St. Vincent de Paul Society -
St. Mary's Cathedral
San Francisco Zen Center
Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church
Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Who We Are and What We Do

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.

OUR PROGRAMS

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response

The San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) assumed a critical civic leadership role in the City's response to COVID-19. When San Francisco declared its "State of Emergency," in late February 2020, it triggered the activation of the SF Department of Emergency Management's (DEM) "Community Branch," a cohort of stakeholders from San Francisco's diverse sectors, charged with assisting the City in its disaster response efforts. Immediately, the SFIC employed its vast and comprehensive communications network in order to serve as the City's chief liaison to its 800 communities of faith and religious institutions. The SFIC was not only entrusted and became responsible for conveying the City's official communications, aggressive recommendations and public health orders, but, at the urging of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), with the support of the Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) Joint Information Center (JIC) Virtual Outreach Team, it hosted *Weekly COVID-19 Online Briefings for Faith Leaders*, featuring civic officials as well as public health and other subject matter experts, who shed light on a broad range of issues, from the virus' impact on the physical, mental and economic health in our City, to revealing and amplifying existing racial inequities suffered by vulnerable populations and neighborhoods. The SFIC'S COVID-19 response efforts are widely credited with providing its faith/lay leaders and their respective policy teams with the resources needed to pivot quickly to online worship and virtual ministry and make the informed decisions critical to ensuring the health and protection of those entrusted to their care.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Metta Fund, the SFIC continues to offer the *Online Briefings for Faith Leaders* on COVID-19 and a broad host of other issues germane to its diverse constituencies. An archive of the *Online Briefings for Faith Leaders* recordings may be accessed at: <https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/covid-19-online-briefings>

Aging & Adult Services

SF Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) and Faith Communities Round Table

Communities of faith are hubs where older adults feel safe, valued and are able to overcome social isolation. In October 2017, the SFIC collaborated with DAS in hosting a highly successful convening attended by over 200 congregation leaders to promote information exchange and connection between service providers and faith leaders. In 2018, the SFIC/DAS organizing committee worked with a CORO Fellow to survey congregation leaders regarding supportive services for older community members. As a follow up to these activities, the decision was made to convene a cohort of those in communities of faith who are responsible for and lead programs that minister to older adults and people with disabilities in order to discuss strategies and develop an actionable plan to promote deeper coordination across the faith and service networks. To lead this effort the SFIC contracted with a “Reservist” from the Community Living Campaign. The inaugural Round Table was held on Friday, August 23, 2019 at Jewish Family & Children’s Services. As we emerge from the pandemic, this Round Table will enter into its second phase.

Disaster Preparedness

- ***Fleet Week***

On the occasion of the 244th anniversary of the United States Navy on Sunday, October 13, 2019, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, the Navy League of the United States and the Fleet Week Host Committee offered an “Interfaith Blessing of the Fleet Service” at the Presidio Chapel. In addition to US Navy, US Marine Corps and US Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel, a large contingent from the Royal Australian Navy was also in attendance as were the Consul Generals of Japan, Indonesia and Hungary, and a representative of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission. Visiting chaplains participated in the service at this former military chapel. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2VwFAkx> Subsequent services were hosted at St. Ignatius Church in 2020 and 2021.

Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ904anyUds>

The 2022 service was hosted at the Presidio Chapel. Link to program: <https://bit.ly/3gTeoEM>

- ***“Security in Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations” Workshop***

The San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Walter & Elise Haas Fund and the Jewish Community Relations Council, presented “Security in Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations” workshop on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. In light of recent terrorist attacks on houses of worship around the globe and in our nation, the SFIC and its collaborating partners provided necessary resources at the workshop designed to support and equip religious institutions in addressing this critical and timely need. These resources are available at: <https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/security-resources>

Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/32ldxqB>

A follow-up “Communal Safety Symposium Confronting Hate Crimes and Uncertain Times” was held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 25, 2021. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/3iMtukN>

Additionally, online briefings on the following related topics were held:

- March 31, 2022 – Potential Cybersecurity Threats and How to Respond As a Result of Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine <https://conta.cc/3w14K4p>
Recording Link: <https://conta.cc/3Nw83Sh>
- June 23, 2022 - Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) <https://conta.cc/3NbUVjU>
Recording Link: <https://conta.cc/3yetktW>

San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

Entering our 34th year, the SFIC has sponsored and coordinated an Interfaith Winter Shelter for the homeless. This shelter provides a hot, nutritious dinner, breakfast and a safe, warm overnight rest for some 100 homeless guests every night from the Monday before Thanksgiving through the end of March. The SFIC coordinates four host-site congregations, 50 meal-providing congregations, shelter staff from Episcopal Community Services and the San Francisco Night Ministry, with input from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

At the request of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing the Interfaith Winter Shelter remained open through the end of March 2022. Extending the shelter is made possible, in large part, thanks to our partners at Episcopal Community Services and congregations who volunteer to prepare and serve meals.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Interfaith Winter Shelter for the 2020-2021 season was hosted at one congregation site, the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption with meals being prepared by the CHEFS Program of Episcopal Community Services in accordance with the City’s current health orders.

The Interfaith Winter Shelter for the 2021-2022 season returned to its traditional format beginning on Sunday, November 21, 2021 with COVID-19 guidances in place.

Preparations are underway for the 2022-2023 season.

For additional information about the Interfaith Winter Shelter please visit:
<https://goo.gl/o3zVdM> and <https://sites.google.com/site/shelterworkingsite/>

The SFIC has created a page on their website with links to resources for the homeless.
Please visit: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/homeless-resources>

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance and Interfaith Service

For 11 years the SFIC has organized the City’s annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, including a popular march and interfaith service. The march proceeds from the Caltrain terminal over the Lefty O’Doul Bridge to Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG), bringing together “freedom riders” from the South Bay and others from the wider Bay Area. This march pays tribute to the 1965 crossing made by Dr. King over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Once at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at YBG, a large crowd participates in the outdoor interfaith service organized by the SFIC to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy. Key religious and civic leaders address the attendees. The 2021 observance “Justice & Hope” was held virtually on January 18, 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The observance may be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YU_Hksmjxw.

The 2022 observance “Toward Justice” was also held virtually on January 22, 2022. The observance may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCIJ5Klt6fQ>

The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial

Every December, collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC hosts the “*The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial.*” Religious leaders of different faiths offer prayers for the homeless who have died during the past year, and their names are read. Last year’s memorial service was held virtually on Thursday evening, December 16, 2021. Preparations are underway for this year’s memorial on Thursday evening, December 15, 2022.

Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast and Service of Thanksgiving

Until the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council’s signature event was the SFIC Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, attended by 400 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Each year we would shine the spotlight on a significant contribution made by the faith community to San Francisco. Additionally, each year, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco’s only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, which brings together people of diverse faiths for prayer and thanksgiving. COVID-19 health gathering restrictions and precautions dictated a new approach for these two beloved events. In 2020, the Prayer Breakfast and Thanksgiving Day Service were combined and observed virtually to comply with public health order guidances. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6mroDgsWfU>

In 2021 the two events were combined again into a joyous Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration of the 100th Birthday of SFIC Founder/Past Chair Rita R. Semel at Congregation Emanu-El.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a684o9emWo8>

As COVID-19 and its variants still loom in our midst, precautionary measures to ensure health and safety dictate that this hybrid concept will be the model for the 2022 Thanksgiving observance on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

Convener of Faith-Based Social Service Agencies (“CEO Roundtable”)

For the past 13 years, the SFIC has regularly convened the leaders of the 22 major faith-based agencies to provide a forum to address issues of common concern. The SFIC promotes the agencies’ collective impact and advocates on their behalf to increase the visibility of the economic challenges faced by non-profits and their clients. Since 2009 the CEO Round Table has responded with a significant unified voice to issues ranging from dramatic budget cuts and their impact on programs and staff, to San Francisco’s affordability crisis that prompted the displacement of numerous constituent agencies. Additionally, the focus is being placed on the attraction and retention of staff in light of shrinking availability and soaring housing costs. As well, the Round Table is developing a strategic response to the significant shift in federal policy priorities and the threat of funding cuts. Currently, this body is addressing the impact of COVID-19 on its respective agencies, staff, programs, clients and the neighborhoods they serve. None of this work could be accomplished by any single agency. Its continued impact has established the CEO Round Table as a major stakeholder at policy-making tables. For a list of the faith-based agencies please visit:

<http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/social-service-agencies>

2022 JCRC Multi-Faith Freedom Seder / Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner

The Jewish Community Relations Council’s (JCRC) annual Multifaitth Freedom Seder has brought people from various faiths and cultures together for 26 years. It was an opportunity to build bonds and strengthen allyship among the Bay Area’s diverse communities. More than 200 people came together for the first time since 2019 at Grace Cathedral under an outdoor tent and on Zoom for a social justice and human-rights focused Passover seder, including Dmytro Kushneruk, the San Francisco-based Consul General of Ukraine. At the seder, faith leaders, government officials, activists and foreign dignitaries were asked to participate in the retelling of the Passover story and how it connects to contemporary issues. The SFIC co-sponsored this event and SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas served as Co-Emcee. <https://gracecathedral.org/26th-annual-jcrc-freedom-seder/>

Ramadan: The Month of Revelation, Gratitude and Community, was observed with an Iftar Dinner, hosted by the Pacifica Institute, at sunset on April 21, 2022, also at Grace Cathedral. Recognizing the confluence of Muslim, Christian & Jewish holy observances, this interfaith coming together around a common table lifted up the Muslim virtues of prayer, fasting and charitable works, with peace as the overarching theme. The SFIC was a co-sponsor of this event and SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to offer a prayer for peace. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/3xjwv3k>

2020 Complete Count (Census)

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census counts every resident in the nation. A complete and accurate count of California's population is essential to the state because the data collected by the Census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities. More than 70 federal programs that benefit California, including education, health and human services, use Census numbers as part of their funding formulas. Communities of faith are central to the count as they comprise trusted institutions and leaders that are able to identify and convey the importance of the count to marginalized and "hard-to-find" residents (e.g. undocumented immigrants and the homeless). A key challenge surrounding the upcoming count is the transition from paper to electronic surveys and related confidentiality and security concerns. SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was selected to participate among community stakeholders on San Francisco's highly successful 2010 Complete Count Committee and was designated to assist in the 2020 effort. An expanded role he played was to coordinate census efforts of regional religious communities participating in the The San Francisco Foundation's FAITHS Program. The SFIC received a grant from The San Francisco Foundation and was selected to host a Coro Fellow, which enabled the SFIC to develop a comprehensive Tool Kit tailored for the use of communities of faith in their outreach efforts to their congregants. Additionally, the Tool Kit provided important resources related to census employment opportunities, linguistic and technological capacities, as well as how houses of worship could become data collection hubs for census responses. Link to Census resources: <https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/census-2020-resources>

US State Department International Visitors Program Delegation Visits

The SFIC regularly hosts visiting delegations from across the globe at the Presidio Chapel organized by the US State Department International Visitors Program. Recently, the SFIC has hosted delegations from Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Malaysia, Malta, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of North Macedonia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Interfaith Essential Housing Efforts

With the growing scarcity of housing and climbing rents, low paid/middle income workers who provide essential services for the City are leaving San Francisco. By repurposing religious institutions' underutilized parcels for affordable rental housing, our faith communities seek to stop the outmigration of essential services workers. At the urging of our civic partners and building upon the important work of the *SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force*, spearheaded by the Council in 2014, the SFIC continues to collaborate with City planning officials, and counsel and work closely with congregations and religious institutions seeking to repurpose their facilities to create housing units for low paid workers who provide essential services in our City. Our efforts in this arena are focused upon helping to identify prospective parcels for development, facilitating public/private sector relationships, exploring sources of pre-development funding, and connecting religious entities interested in such redevelopment projects with critical technical/professional expertise and resources.

SFIC in the News

For further articles and other media related to the SFIC, we would direct your attention to the following link:
<http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/sfic-news>

Broad Civic Engagement

Because of the important stakeholder role the SFIC plays in many arenas, the SFIC has been invited to take a place at many tables. Most recently, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas served on the San Francisco Economic Recovery Task Force, the 2020 Complete Count Census Committee, the SF Disaster Council, and The San Francisco Foundation/FAITHS Leadership Council. He previously served on the SF Human Rights Commission, SF Aging & Adult Services Commission and was designated as its representative to the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Governing Body. Additionally, he was selected to participate on the Aspen Institute's cohort on religious pluralism and multifaith engagement, and also serves on a number of nonprofit boards and advisory committees.

The accomplishments listed above are the work of two full-time staff, an active Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers. <https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/staff-and-board-directors>

We gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by congregations, judicatories, agencies, individuals, and foundations which make these achievements and others not listed here possible.

Special Thanks



Rev. Lyle Beckman
Interim Pastor

Dr. Timothy Zerlang
Director of Music

Gregory Gomez
Livestream Videographer

Joanna Lopez
Sales and Marketing Manager

Bill Wilson
Photographer

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**

P.O. Box 29055 San Francisco, CA 94129

Telephone: (415) 474-1321

Email: office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org

Website: www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org

Online contributions: <https://sfic.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate>