

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
November 24, 2005
Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco

- Prelude: "Now Thank We All Our God"
by J.S. Bach
- Invocation: Rabbi Stephen Pearce
- Greetings: Mark Schlesinger, President, Congregation Emanu-El
David Jones, Moderator,
First Unitarian Universalist Church
- Hymn: "We Gather Together"
- A prayer of thanksgiving: The Very Rev. Alan Jones
- Excerpts from
Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day proclamation: Rev. Cn. Frances Tornquist
- A prayer of thanksgiving: Dr. Amos Brown
- Responsive prayer: Dr. Amos Brown

How wonderful, O God, are the works of Your hands. The heavens declare Your glory, the arch of sky displays Your handiwork.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

In Your love You have given us the power to behold the beauty of Your world, robed in all its splendor. The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes - all disclose Your presence.

The earth reveals God's eternal presence.

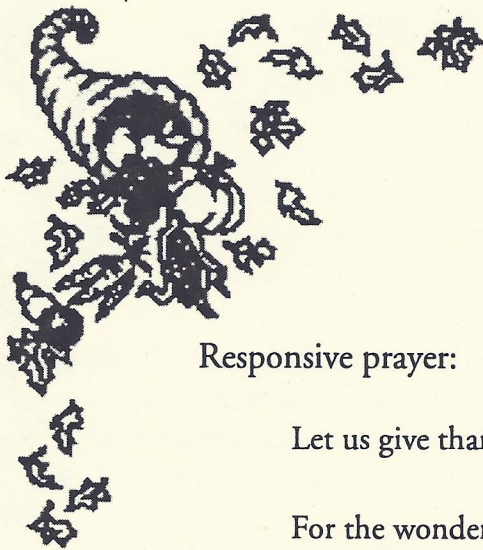
The roaring breakers of the sea tell of Your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air bespeak Your wondrous will.

Life comes forth by God's creative will.

In Your goodness You have made us able to hear the music of the world. The raging of winds, the whispering of trees in the wood, and the precious voices of loved ones reveal to us that You are in our midst.

A divine voice sings through all creation.

- Choir: "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter
- A prayer of thanksgiving: Rev. John Robinson



Responsive prayer:

Rev. John Robinson

Let us give thanks to our creator for all of the gifts we have so abundantly received:

For the wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you for the beauty which inspires us.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing your image.

We thank you for the compassion which strengthens us.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends.

We thank you for refreshment which renews our lives.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.

We thank you for the ability to improve our lives and the lives of others.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and pray.

We thank you for the energy you have given us.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.

We thank you for their example.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty and justice.

We thank you for all those who have helped us to envision a better world.

For this community and for the spirit of cooperation and mutual compassion.

We thank you for drawing us together.

A prayer of Thanksgiving:

Michael Adams
Christian Jennert
Soulemein Ghali

Offering:

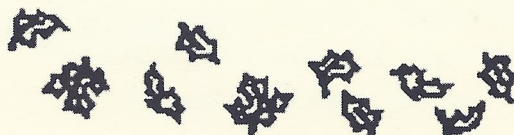
Up On Top and Back On Track

Anthem:

“Hodu L’Adonai” by Israel Alter
Cantor Roslyn Barak

A prayer of Thanksgiving:

Rev. Kyle Lovett



Responsive reading:

Rev. Kyle Lovett

Our God and Creator, we thank You for the sense of justice You have implanted within us, and which always seeks, though at times haltingly, to express itself in daily life.

Make us, O God, more steadfast in our desire to do Your will. Teach us that the men and women around us are brothers and sisters, and fill us with such love for our fellow creatures that we will never wrong them, or exploit them, or take advantage of their weakness or ignorance.

Kindle in us a passion for righteousness. Grant us the vision to see that only justice can endure, and that only in being just to one another can we make our lives acceptable to You.

May we by our thoughts and our deeds hasten the time when wrong and violence shall cease, and justice be established in all the earth.

O God, You have called us to peace, for You are Peace itself. May we have the vision to see that each of us, in some measure, can help to realize these aims:

Where there are ignorance and superstition,
Let there be enlightenment and knowledge.

Where there are prejudice and hatred,
Let there be acceptance and love.

Where there are fear and suspicion,
Let there be confidence and trust.

Where there are tyranny and oppression,
Let there be freedom and justice.

Where there are poverty and disease,
Let there be prosperity and health.

Where there are strife and discord,
Let there be harmony and peace.

Closing Hymn:

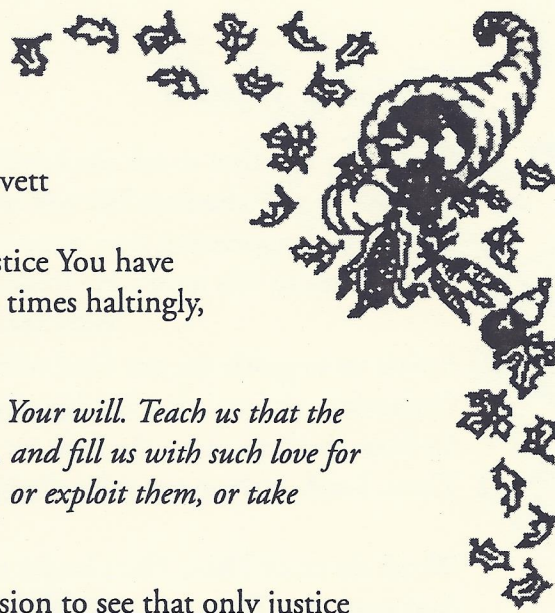
"America The Beautiful"

Benediction:

Rabbi Helen T. Cohn

Postlude:

"Sonata No. 2" by Felix Mendelssohn



We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
He hastens and chastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine,
So from the beginning the fight we are winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine.

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation.
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free.
Amen!



America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

We welcome the following participating congregations:

Congregation Emanu-El - Rabbi Stephen Pearce, Rabbi Helen Cohn, Cantor Roslyn Barak

First Unitarian Universalist Church - Rev. John Robinson

Grace Cathedral - The Very Rev. Alan Jones and Rev. Cn. Frances Tornquist

Old St. Mary's Cathedral - Michael Adams

St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Christian Jennert

St. John's United Church of Christ - Rev. Kyle Lovett

San Francisco Islamic Society - Soulemein Ghali

Third Baptist Church - Dr. Amos Brown

Organist - Rodney Gehrke