

UNITED WE STAND

An Interreligious Prayer Vigil in Troubled Times

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 ♦ 7:00 PM

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean of Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

READING from the Declaration of Independence

Anneka Herring
Senior, Garfield High School

Leader We hold these truths to be self-evident:

***All* That all people are created equal.**

Leader That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,

***All* That among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**

Leader That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among peoples:

***All* Deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.**

HYMN *Gentle Words*

sung by the Schola of Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir School

What the dew is to the flower,
gentle words are to the soul;
and a blessing to the giver,
and so dear to the receiver,
we should never withhold.

Gentle words kindly spoken
often soothe the troubled mind,
while links of love are broken
by words that are unkind.

Then O thou gentle spirit,
my constant guardian be,
"Do to others," be my motto,
"as I'd have them do to me."

—words & tune by Polly M. Rupe of the Shaker
community of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky (c. 1860)
arranged by Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

CALL TO PRAYER

The Very Reverend Gary F. Lazzeroni
Pastor of St. James Cathedral

A READING FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Rev. Michael Trice, Ph.D.
*Executive Director and Spehar-Halligan Professor,
Center for Ecumenical & Interreligious Engagement, Seattle University*

AT WHAT point [...] is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer: If it ever reach us it must spring up amongst us; it cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author. As a nation of the free we must live through all time or die by suicide.

I hope I am over wary; but if I am not, there is even now something of ill omen amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which pervades the country—the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passions in lieu of the sober judgment of courts, and the worse than savage mobs for the executive ministers of justice. This disposition is fearful in any community; and that it now exists in ours, though grating to our feelings to admit, it would be a violation of truth and an insult to our intelligence to deny.

—from Lincoln's address at the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois, 27 January 1837

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Rabbi Daniel Weiner
Senior Rabbi, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

*What are my fears for this nation of ours?
What deep wells can I draw on for hope?*



A READING FROM ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Joyce del Rosario, PhD
Executive Director, Faith Action Network

I KNOW well that there are people in this country who, for a number of very obvious reasons, are afraid to bring in any displaced persons. I think this fear is far more dangerous than the people whom we might bring in. We are growing so pusillanimous that, in a short time, we will be afraid of our own shadows—and this is no world in which the fearful survive. Good new blood will do us no harm. We are suffering from fear of the unknown. But these refugees have seen so much that was unknown that they have learned how to accept it and stand up to it.

After all, the blame really lies with ourselves. It is we who have not been articulate enough and have not educated people as a whole to understand that the displaced persons are just like ourselves. Only, for the moment, they have no country.

—from “My Day,” 23 July 1947

A PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS, IMMIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES

Mahrukh Motafram

*Trustee, Parliament of the World's Religions
past board member, Zoroastrian Society of Washington State*

HAPPINESS be the lot of him who works for happiness for others.
May Ahura Mazda grant him health and happiness.
For the effort to uphold truth, I beseech these very gifts from thee.
Mayest thou, through Armaiti, the spirit of Rightmindedness,
bless me with the perfection of a life guided by Thee, Ahura Mazda.

—Yasna 43:1, from the *Gathas* [hymns] of Zoroaster [Zarathustra]

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

*What is my family of origin's migration story?
What challenges did they face? How were they welcomed?
How have I welcomed the stranger?*



A READING FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson
*Canon for Multicultural Ministries & Community
Transformation, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia*

IDO not want to give the impression that nonviolence will work miracles overnight. People are not easily moved from their mental ruts or purged of their prejudiced and irrational feelings. When the underprivileged demand freedom, the privileged first react with bitterness and resistance. Even when the demands are couched in nonviolent terms, the initial response is the same. I am sure that many of our white brothers in Montgomery and across the south are still bitter toward Negro leaders, even though these leaders have sought to follow a way of love and nonviolence. So the nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally, it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality....

In spite of the tensions and uncertainties of our age something profoundly meaningful has begun. Old systems of exploitation and oppression are passing away and new systems of justice and equality are being born. In a real sense ours is a great time in which to be alive. Therefore I am not yet discouraged about the future. Granted that the easygoing optimism of yesterday is impossible. Granted that we face a world crisis which often leaves us standing amid the surging murmur of life's restless sea. But every crisis has both its dangers and its opportunities. Each can spell either salvation or doom. In a dark, confused world the spirit of God may yet reign supreme.

—from "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence," 13 April 1960

THIS is what should be done
 By one who is skilled in goodness,
 And who knows the path of peace:
 Let them be able and upright,
 Straightforward and gentle in speech,
 Humble and not conceited,
 Contented and easily satisfied,
 Unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways.
 Peaceful and calm and wise and skillful,
 Not proud or demanding in nature.
 Let them not do the slightest thing
 That the wise would later reprove.
 Wishing: In gladness and in safety,
 May all beings be at ease.
 Whatever living beings there may be;
 Whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
 The great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
 The seen and the unseen,
 Those living near and far away,
 Those born and to-be-born —
 May all beings be at ease!
 Let none deceive another,
 Or despise any being in any state.
 Let none through anger or ill-will
 Wish harm upon another.
 Even as a mother protects with her life
 Her child, her only child,
 So with a boundless heart
 Should one cherish all living beings;
 Radiating kindness over the entire world:
 Spreading upwards to the skies,
 And downwards to the depths;
 Outwards and unbounded,
 Freed from hatred and ill-will.
 Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down
 Free from drowsiness,
 One should sustain this recollection.
 This is said to be the sublime abiding.
 By not holding to fixed views,
 The pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision,
 Being freed from all sense desires,
 Is not born again into this world. ♦

—*Karaniya Metta Sutta*: The Buddha's Words on Loving-kindness
 translated from the Pali by The Amaravati Sangha,
 translation © 1994 English Sangha Trust, accesstoinight.org

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

*What is my response to political violence?
How can the principles of nonviolence become a way of life for me—for my community?*



A READING FROM DOROTHY DAY

Molly Bosch, BSN, RN

Street Medicine Nurse, Harborview Hospital and Operation Nightwatch

WHenever I groan within myself and think how hard it is to keep writing about love in these times of tension and strife which may at any moment become for us all a time of terror, I think to myself, “What else is the world interested in?” What else do we all want, each one of us, except to love and be loved, in our families, in our work, in all our relationships. God is Love. Love casts out fear. Even the most ardent revolutionist, seeking to change the world, to overturn the tables of the money changers, is trying to make a world where it is easier for people to love, to stand in that relationship with each other of love. We want with all our hearts to love, to be loved. And not just in the family but to look upon all as our mothers, sisters, brothers, children. It is when we love the most intensely and most humanly, that we can recognize how tepid is our love for others. The keenness and intensity of love brings with it suffering, of course, but joy too because it is a foretaste of heaven.

—from “On Pilgrimage,” April 1948

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Hannah Hochkeppel

Program Director, Paths to Understanding

CONVERSATION IN TRIADS

Questions to consider together:

*In my own life and politics, am I motivated by love?
Who are the people whom I find it difficult to love?
How can I open my heart to love them more “intensely” and “humanly”?*



CONCLUDING PRAYERS

A READING FROM THE QUR'AN & PRAYER

Imam Jamal Rahman
Co-founder & Imam, Interfaith Community Sanctuary

EXCHANGE OF PEACE/SHALOM/SALAAM

You are invited to stand and share a sign of peace with your neighbors, respecting others' desires for distance to be maintained. Ways to exchange a sign of peace include: a handshake, a bow, folding your hands and saying "peace be with you," etc.

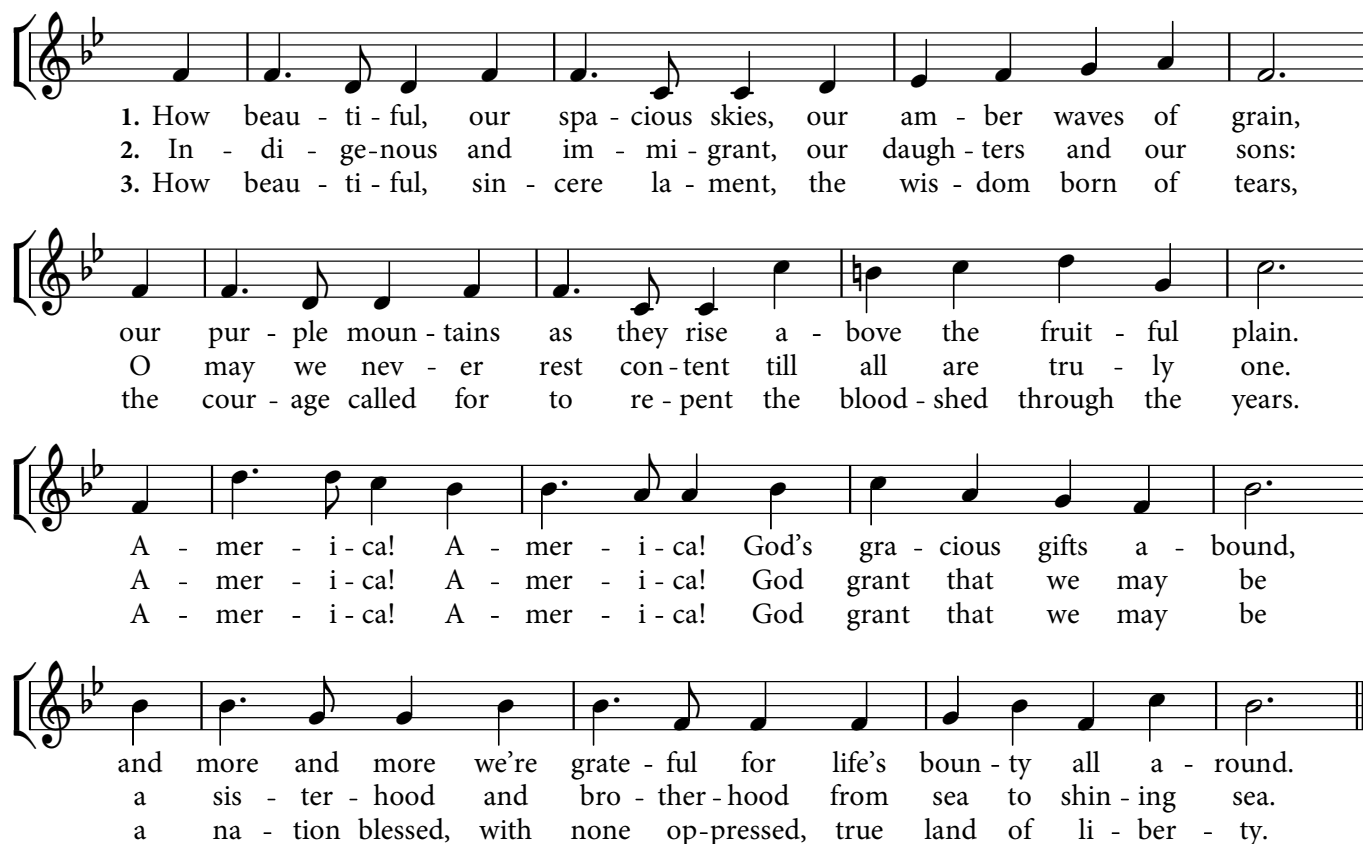
CONCLUDING PRAYER & BLESSING

Pastor Carey Anderson
Senior Pastor, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Seattle

HYMN

How beautiful, our spacious skies ♦ sung by all, standing as able

TUNE: *Materna*



1. How beau - ti - ful, our spa - cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain,
2. In - di - ge-nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh - ters and our sons:
3. How beau - ti - ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,

our pur - ple moun - tains as they rise a - bove the fruit - ful plain.
O may we nev - er rest con - tent till all are tru - ly one.
the cour - age called for to re - pent the blood - shed through the years.

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God's gra - cious gifts a - bound,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be

and more and more we're grate - ful for life's boun - ty all a - round.
a sis - ter - hood and bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
a na - tion blessed, with none op - pressed, true land of li - ber - ty.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938), © Medical Mission Sisters, 1993, permission to reprint requested;
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CANDLE LIGHTING

As you leave, you are invited to light a candle as a prayerful action. Sand bowls are located beside both rear columns.





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