

First United Methodist Church Congregation Beth Israel



THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 • 4:00 P.M.

In consideration of others, please silence your cell phones.

Greeting Rev. Trudy Robinson, *Lead Pastor, First United Methodist Church*

Prelude Dr. Jaebon Hwang, *Director of Music Ministries & Organist, First United Methodist Church*
Hal'luhu from "Four Preludes on Jewish Melodies"
William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Invocation Rev. Jessica Stryko, *Teaching Pastor, Water's Edge Faith Community*

Everlasting God, we invite your Spirit to rest on us this day. We give thanks for the spirit of life, for the spirit of wisdom. In thanksgiving we see our dependence upon you, O God, and through you we come to see our dependence upon each other. Open our hearts and minds to love as You have loved us, to offer the grace we have abundantly received, and to see all people as beloved Children of God. Amen.

• **Processional Hymn #131: We Gather Together**

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; he
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, or -
 3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, and

chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known. The
 dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine; so
 pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let

wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing. Sing
 from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning; thou,
 thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion; thy

prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!
 name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Words: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 Music: KREMSER, 16th cent. Dutch melody; arr. by Edward Kremser, 1877
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The Thanksgiving Proclamation Patti Blakeslee, Chair of Church Council, First United Methodist Church

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while He has opened to us new sources of wealth and has crowned the labor of our workingmen in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may then be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

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

Done at the city of Washington, this 20th day of October, A.D. 1864, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Anthem . . Chancel Choir, First United Methodist Church; Zimriyah Chorale, Beth Israel; Christopher Stephens, bass-baritone; Dr. Andrew Schultz, guest conductor

Bless the Lord, My Soul
Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. God does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him, for God knows of what we are made, God remembers that we are dust. (Robert Batastini and The Community of Taizé based on Psalm 103)

Litany of Thanksgiving Rev. Tamara Walker, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care, First United Methodist Church

Give thanks to the Lord who is good. **God's love is everlasting.**

Come, let us praise God joyfully! **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors. **Thank you, God.**

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying. **Thank you, God.**

For work to do and strength to do it; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement. **Thank you, God.**

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared. **Thank you, God.**

For family; for living together and eating together; for times of work and times of play. **Thank you, God.**

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness. **Thank you, God.**

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward wornout ways of living; for their search for freedom; for their passion for fairness; for their solemn vows. **Thank you, God.**

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing. **Thank you, God.**

For the community into which we have been called, and for our life together. **Thank you, God.**

For your spirit which guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love. **Thank you, God.**

We thank you, eternal God, for all your goodness toward us.

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good. God's love is everlasting!

Anthem Youth and Teen Choirs, *Beth Israel*; Andy Mayer, *piano*; Rabbi Jeremy Gimbel, *director*
Shir Chadash
Julie Silver

Sing unto God all the earth a new song. I will sing unto God a new song. Sing unto God and we'll all sing along all the earth a new song unto God.

The Responsive Reading: America's Biblical Heritage Rabbi/Cantor Arlene Bernstein, *Beth Israel*

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity.

With firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Let justice well up as the waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms: freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world; freedom to worship God in one's own way—everywhere in the world; freedom from want which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world; freedom from fear, which means a worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—everywhere in the world.

And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more, but they shall sit every one under their vines and under their fig trees; and none shall make them afraid.

(Sabbath and Festival Prayer Book, Rabbinical Assembly of America)

Anthem Youth and Teen Choirs, *Beth Israel*
Hodu
Debbie Friedman (1951-2011)

Translation: Give thanks for God, for God is good. God's mercy endures forever. Let Israel say: God's mercy endures. Let the house of Aaron say: God's mercy endures forever. Let those who revere God say: God's mercy endures forever.

Introduction of Rabbi Jason Nevarez Rev. Trudy Robinson

Anthem The Combined Adult Choirs; Amy Mein, *soprano*; Penny Hawkins, *mezzo-soprano*; Timmy Simpson, *tenor*
Halleluya, Haleli nafshi
Salamone Rossi (1570-1630)

Translation: Hallelujah. Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord during my lifetime and sing hymns to my God while I am alive. Do not rely on even the most powerful of human beings, on any mortal man who cannot be your resource for salvation. His soul will depart and return to its source in the earth. On that day his plans will come to nothing. Happy is he whose source of help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God who created the heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it; who protects truth forever, who secures justice for those who are wronged, who gives good to the hungry. The Lord frees the captive; the Lord restores sight to the blind; the Lord makes those who are bent stand straight; the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord watches over the stranger. He gives support to the orphan and widow but makes the path of the wicked tortuous. The Lord will reign forever; your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord. (Psalm 146)

Scripture Reading: selected verses from Psalm 18 and rabbinic literature Dan Jones, *President, Beth Israel*

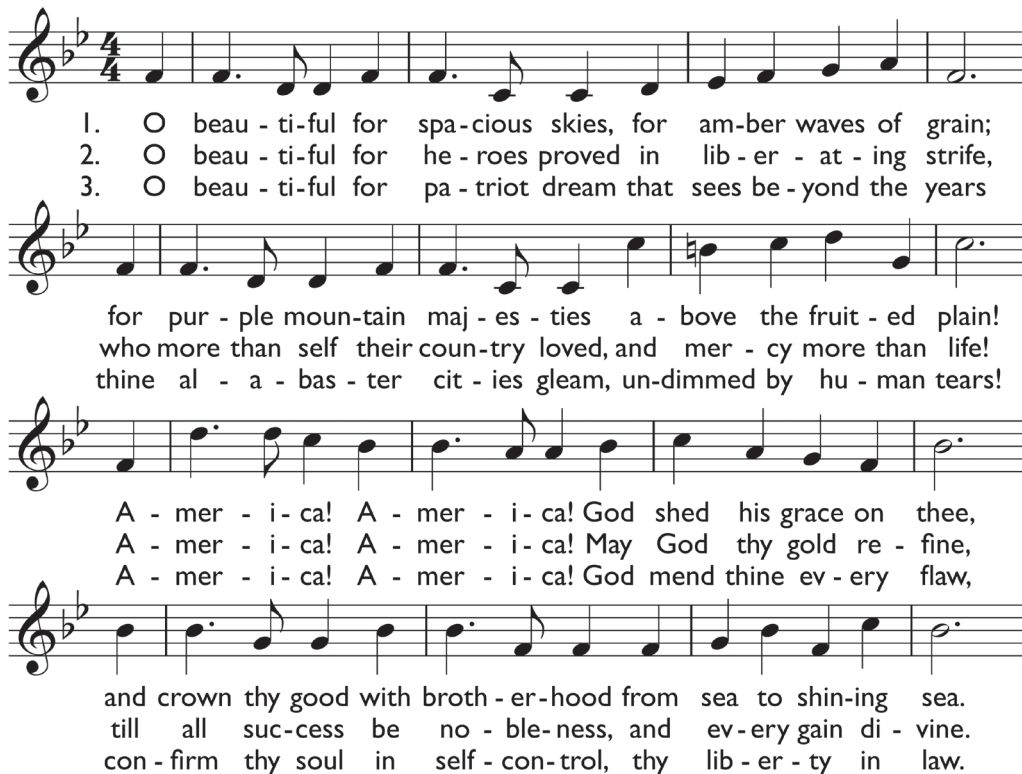
Thanksgiving Address Rabbi Jason Nevarez, *Senior Rabbi, Beth Israel*

Blessing The Combined Adult Choirs; Rabbi Jeremy Gimbel, *Associate Rabbi, Beth Israel*
Shalom Rav
Ben Steinberg (b. 1930)

Translation: Grant abundant and eternal peace to Your people Israel, for You are the Supreme Sovereign of peace. May it please You to bless Your people Israel in every season and at all times with Your gift of peace. Praised are You Lord, who blesses His people Israel with peace.

Thanksgiving Prayer Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, *Associate Pastor of Discipleship, First United Methodist Church*

• **Recessional Hymn #696: America the Beautiful**



1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - ci - ous skies, for am - ber waves of grain;
2. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - 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 cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

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,

and crown thy good with broth - er - 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.

Words: Katharine Lee Bates, 1904
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1888

• **Benediction** Rabbi Jason Nevarez

Postlude Dr. Jaebon Hwang
Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 29 "We Thank You, God"
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), arr. Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

• *You are invited to stand.*

The community meal will be held in the Cove following the service. Advance reservation required.