

# Interfaith Sunday

Nurturing Faith, Hope and Healing



November 16th, 2025

10:30 am Worship

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### CARILION PEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

### GATHERING MUSIC

Prelude on "The ASH GROVE"

Wayne Wold

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rabbi Eric Abbott, Bethesda Jewish Congregation  
Imam Abdul Sheikh Jalil, Idara e Jaferia Islamic Center  
Chancel Players, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

### \*HYMN

We Gather Together



We gath - er to - geth - er in joy - ful thanks - giv - ing, a - cclaim - ing cre -  
We gath - er to - geth - er to join in the jour - ney, con - firm - ing, com -  
a - tion, whose boun - ty we share; both sor - row and glad - ness we find now in our  
mit - ting our pas - sage to be a true af - fir - ma - tion, in joy and trib - u -  
liv - ing, we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.  
la - tion, when bound to hu - man care and hope, then we are free.

Lyrics adapted by Dorothy Caiger Senghas and Rev. Robert Sengas. © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association .

### WELCOME

Pastor David Gray, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

### UNISON READINGS

Pastor Denise Diaab, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church  
Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty...  
under God's wings you will find refuge; God's faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

- From Psalm 91

"Show (your) gratitude to God. Any who is (so) grateful does so to the profit of his own  
soul...God is free of all wants, Worthy of all praise...If any desire a reward in this life, We

shall give it to him; and if any desire a reward in the Hereafter, We shall give it to him. And swiftly shall We reward those (with) gratitude."

- From Koran (31:12 and 3:145)

## INVITATION TO CHILDREN

*Children are invited, with the permission of their parents, to come forward and sit on the Chancel steps for the Children's Message.*

## SONG

Rabbi Eric Abbott (BJC)

### "Hinei Mah Tov" – Elana Arian

(based on Psalm 133:1)

*Hinei mah tov umah na'im  
shevet achim gam yachad.*

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נְּעִים  
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יַחַד:

[How good and how pleasant it is that siblings dwell together.]

How good it is (how good it is)  
How sweet it is (how sweet it is)  
To be together on this day.

*Shalom Aleichem, Salaam Alaykum*

שְׁלוֹם עָלֵיכֶם, סָלַם עֲלֵיכֶם

[Peace be unto you.]

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosanna Howard (BHPC), Anika Manzoor (MIIC), Becky Leavey (BJC)

*Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children from Covenant Hall after the worship service.*

## READING OF SACRED TEXTS

Pastor Denise Diaab (BHPC)

Rabbi Eric Abbott (BJC)

Imam Refai Arefin, Islamic Community Center of Potomac

## A CONVERSATION

*What Do We Find Most Meaningful in our Sacred Traditions During This Time?*

Imam Refai Arefin (ICCP), Imam Abdul Sheikh Jalil (IDARA), Pastor Denise Diaab (BHPC),  
Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad (MIIC), Rabbi Eric Abbott (BJC), Pastor David Gray (BHPC)

## \*HYMN 488

The God of Abraham Praise

vs. 1-2

*Leoni*

## MOMENT OF WITNESS

Judy Ozone (BHPC), Evelyn Ganzglass (BJC), and Shaheen Khan (MIIC)

### CALL FOR OFFERING\*

*Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate with "interfaith offering" written in the memo or on the envelope. As in past years, loose offering will go to church expenses. As we make our offerings, we encourage you to fill out the fellowship pads in the pews; fellowship pads can be passed to the end of your row and back so that we might greet each other in our rows by name following the service.*



### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Combined Choirs of BJC, MIIC, and BHPC

Too Often, God, Your Name Is Used

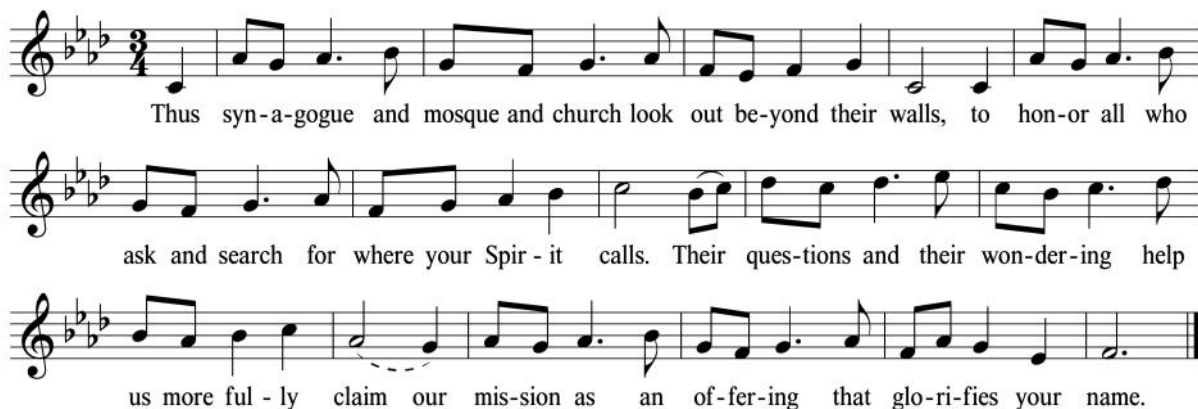
Thomas Troeger/Sally Ann Morris

Too often, God, your name is used to sanction hate and fear, so love and justice are refused to people you hold dear. O never let us use your name to harm or hurt or kill or consecrate a vicious aim as your almighty will.

But move through us in deeds that spell your name as Love and Light, for faithful actions far excel beliefs that we recite. Let naming you through how we live become our public creed: the clearest witness we can give is meeting human need.

And keep us ready to receive the good that others do, that helps expand what we believe and why we trust in you. For where love and justice meet, we see anew your face, and for a moment glimpse complete world transformed by grace.

*The congregation is invited to sing the final verse with the choir.*



Thus syn-a-gogue and mosque and church look out be-yond their walls, to hon-or all who  
ask and search for where your Spir - it calls. Their ques-tions and their won-der-ing help  
us more ful - ly claim our mis-sion as an of-fer-ing that glo-ri-fies your name.

*In unison*

**PRAYER FOR DAY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Loving God, we thank you for your gifts to us. We praise you for the opportunity to worship you this day. Use these gifts which we return to you for your work in the world and help us to be agents of your peace and reconciliation. Amen.

**\*HYMN OF PARTNERSHIP**

Come Ye Thankful People, Come

*St. George's Windsor*

Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, gath - er in our sa - cred home.  
 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple come, raise your voice in u - ni - son:  
 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise your voice in u - ni - son:

Gath - er Chris - tian, Mus - lim, Jew, Cov - e - nant of love re - new.  
 For the earth which God did form, for the hearth which keeps us warm,  
 Through this house and o'er the land, join - ing us in heart and hand;

God, our Mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;  
 For the ark and for the dove, for God's peace and for God's love;  
 Make us grate - ful peo - ple, Lord, help us not your bles - sings hoard;

God has brought us through the night, God has filled this house with light.  
 God has brought us through the night, God has filled this house with light.  
 Since you bring us through each night, may we kin - dle Your pure light.

Lyrics by BHPC Elder Susan Bowis (based on Hymn 551). All rights reserved.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Imam Refai Arefin (ICCP), Rabbi Eric Abbott (BJC), and Pastor David Gray (BHPC)

**SUNG BLESSING**

Universal Blessing

Alice Parker

May love so dwell in our hearts,  
 May compassion so flow from our hands,  
 May peace so encompass our lives that justice and mercy abound in this world.  
 Sing love, sing compassion, sing peace.

**\*PASSING PEACE**

## Interfaith Brunch

Following the service everyone is invited to join us in Memorial Hall for brunch and conversation. All are welcome.

### What is the Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee?

**The What** | The Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee, ICPC, is a decades-old partnership originally between the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC). In 2019, the Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC) joined the partnership when it began sharing sacred space at 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda, Maryland.

**The Why** | The ICPC works to nurture connections among the three faith communities throughout the year through shared service projects, social and topical events, an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service, and an annual interfaith spring picnic. We believe that engaging one another face-to-face, having conversations over food, learning about each other's experiences, and sharing our faith traditions helps us to see one another more fully and build enduring relationships.



Interfaith Picnic



Authors Among Us



New Story Leadership



Pulpit Exchange

*Look for more info on upcoming ICPC events from your congregation's communications or reach out to [icpc6601@gmail.com](mailto:icpc6601@gmail.com).*

## Today's Interfaith Service Project : Thanksgiving Baskets

After the 10:30 a.m. Service | Covenant Hall

*Stop by Covenant Hall on your way to the Interfaith Brunch to help assemble Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets will provide Thanksgiving dinner to families in need in Montgomery County.*

### Help Out with Smart Sacks | Following the Interfaith Service

All are welcome to help pack Smart Sacks in the Lounge! This is a family-friendly mission opportunity that provides supplemental food to families in Montgomery County who are food deficient over the weekends. Help by filling a Smart Sack with the provided items.



## CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS: PLEASE PRAY WITH US

We hold in God's healing presence those who are experiencing grief and loss.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations:

- We are truly grateful for our covenant community and look forward to our annual Interfaith Worship Service and Brunch.

We hold in God's healing presence those who are suffer pain, ill health or other concerns including:

- Those hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for chronic illness, ALS, or Parkinson's, recovering from Covid, awaiting medical results, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the community.
- Those facing challenging issues and/or difficult decisions.

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and all the places where people are experiencing hurt and division:

- Prayers for our government leaders and for healing and unity for our country.
- The people hurting throughout the world.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.

