



Gratitude in Time of Challenge

The 21st Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Brought to you by the interfaith community of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Prelude

“Praeambulum in C”
Greg Crowell, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Heinrich Scheidemann

Welcome

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Call to Celebration

“Fanga”
Leader: Fanga Alafia.
People: Ashe, Ashe.

West Michigan Jewels of Africa
& Ted Jauw

The Morning Star

Kevin Locke
Lakota Sioux Hunkpapa Band & Annishnabe
Standing Rock Reservation

Blessed Mary

Imam Morsy Salem
Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute

Chapter 19 of the Quran, Verses 16-31

And mention, [O Muhammad], in the Book [the story of] Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east. And she took, in seclusion from them, a screen. Then We sent to her Our Angel, and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man. She said, "Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, [so leave me], if you should be fearing of Allah." He said, "I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy." She said, "How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?" He said, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.'" So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said, "Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten." But he called her from below her, "Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream. And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. So eat and drink and be content. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.'" Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said, "O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste." So she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?" [Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah as long as I remain alive.

Blessed is the Spot

Lucas, Ellie, and Michael Hampton
Bahá'í Faith





Look for the Helpers

Rachel Cain
Center for Inquiry Michigan

Hope

Baljeet Singh and Family
Sikh Society of West Michigan
Sikh Gurdwara

Attitude of Gratitude

Rev. Dr. Willie Gholston II
First Community A.M.E. Church

Cultivating Gratitude

Ven Ai Su Kim Hillebrand
Grand Rapids Buddhist Temple

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Krishna and Vishnu Mano
West Michigan Hindu Temple

Offering

Family Promise

Each year at our Thanksgiving Celebration, we collect a freewill offering for a local organization. This year, our offering will benefit the work of Family Promise which works to eliminate homelessness in our community.

To donate to Family Promise, please visit the link in the video description or click here:
https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/familypromise?locale.x=en_US

Community Song

“Hymn of Gratitude”

Alan J. Hommerding
Hymn Tune: Beach Spring

Kathy Jauw, Bethany Beelan, Jim Jauw, and Larry Barton

The Blessing

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
Batavia Madrigal Singers

Rabbi Michael Schadick
Temple Emanuel
John Rutter

Postlude

“Praeludium in G Minor”
Dr. Greg Crowell, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Nikolas Bruhn

