

AN INTERFAITH NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**December 31, 2016
6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Program
7:00 p.m. Worship**



Sponsored by

Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network

Hosted by

Eastport United Methodist Church

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*I offer you peace.
I offer you love.
I offer you friendship.
I see your beauty.
I hear your need.
I feel your feelings.
My wisdom flows from
the Highest Source.
I salute that Source in you.
Let us work together
for unity and love.*

(Gandhi's Prayer for Peace)

PRE- SERVICE PROGRAM

Sending Up My Timber

The Blind Boys of Mississippi

Gospel Travelers of Annapolis, Maryland

Without God

arr. by The Gospel Travelers

Gospel Travelers of Annapolis, Maryland

All Souls Welcome

(see insert)

Original vocals set to traditional melody "We Shall Not be Moved"

Max Ochs, Artist

Carefully Taught

From South Pacific by Rogers and Hammerstein

Max Ochs, Artist

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

Arundel Vocal Arts Society

JoAnn Kulesza, Director

Organ and Piano Accompaniment
JoAnn Kulesza, Organist and Music Director
Eastport United Methodist Church

WELCOME

Sandra Solomon and Liz Vanden Huevel
Co-Chairs, Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)

CALL TO PRAYER

Mohamed Babiker
Islamic Society of Annapolis
Athan
(Islamic Call to Prayer)

*CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? ***Refrain***

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone; give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? ***Refrain***

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? ***Refrain***

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23

Rabbi Doctor Moshe Shualy

Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, MD

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Anthem

William Murphy

The Daughters of Zion

Liturgical Dance Team, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

Kyra Wade, Director; Maleah Sims, Lead Dancer

PRAYER AND READING FROM THE BAHÁ'Í WRITINGS

Joan Weingartner

Dr. K. Yazdani

Bahá'í Community of Anne Arundel County East

O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of Thy glad-tidings. O God! Let this American democracy become glorious in spiritual degrees even as it has aspired to material degrees, and render this just government victorious. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Most Great Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world. O God! This American nation is

worthy of Thy favors and is deserving of Thy mercy. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal. ~ 'Abdu'l-Bahá

“Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility. We pray God to protect thee from the heat of jealousy and the cold of hatred. He verily is nigh, ready to answer.”

~ *Baha'u'llah, Prophet and Founder of the Baha'i Faith*

A CHANT FROM THE BUDDHIST WRITINGS

Compassion Chant

Phyllis Culham and Robert Ertman

Cantors, Mindfulness Practice Group of Annapolis

Soto Zen Bell Chant [excerpted]

May the sound of the bell spread throughout the universe, making darkness bright, relieving the three realms of suffering, shattering swords. May it bring all beings to Enlightenment.

Thich Nhat Hanh's Version of the Great Bell Chant [excerpted]

May the sound of this bell penetrate deep into the cosmos. Even in the darkest spots, living beings are able to hear it clearly, so that all suffering in them ceases, understanding comes to their heart, and they transcend the path of sorrow and death.

The universal dharma door is already open. The sound of the rising tide is heard clearly. The miracle happens: A beautiful child appears in the heart of the lotus flower. One single drop of this compassionate water is enough to bring back the refreshing spring to our mountains and rivers.

Listening to the bell, I feel the afflictions in me beginning to dissolve – My mind calm, my body relaxed, a smile is born on my lips. Following the sound of the bell, my breath brings me back to the safe island of mindfulness. In the garden of my heart, the flowers of peace bloom beautifully.

A READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES
From Roman's 12:19-18, New Revised Standard Bible

The Reverend Michelle Mejia
Pastor, Eastport United Methodist Church

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

When All Thy Names are One

Bob Zentz, composer

Max Ochs, artist

**A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
SELECTED VERSES FROM
THE BOOK OF MORMON: ANOTHER TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST
(MOSIAH CHAPTER 4 and ALMA CHAPTER 1)**

President Pace J. McConkie, Maryland Baltimore Mission
Past President of the Annapolis Maryland Stake
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due.

And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish.

Perhaps thou shalt say: The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just –

But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God.

For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same Being, even God, for all the substance which we have . . . ?

And behold, even at this time, ye have been calling on His name, and begging for a remission of your sins. And has He suffered that ye have begged in vain? Nay; He has poured out His spirit upon you, and has caused that your hearts should be filled with joy . . .

And now, if God, who has created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have one to another.

And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation for

withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you but to God, to whom also your life belongeth; and yet ye put up no petition, nor repent . . . I say unto you, wo be unto that man, for his substance shall perish with him.

And now, for the sake of these things which I have spoken unto you – that is, for the sake of retaining a remission of your sins from day to day, that ye may walk guiltless before God – I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants ---- liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who [stand] in need.

A Joyful Ring

Barbara B. Kinyon

The Heavenly Bells

Eastport United Methodist Church

Marjorie Hughes, Director

A READING FROM THE QUR'AN

Ejaz Anam

Islamic Society of Annapolis

And from amongst His signs is this that He created you from dust; and then behold you are humans scattered far and wide. Among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between you. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect. And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the variations in your languages and colors; verily in that are signs for those who know. And among His signs is the sleep that you take by night and by day, and the quest that you make for livelihood out of His bounty; verily in that are signs for those who hearken... (30:20-23).

O people, We have created you from a male and a female and made you into races and tribes so that you may know each other. Surely the most honored of you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous of you (49:13).

REFLECTIONS ON PEACE

The Reverend Diana Carroll
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

[We will observe silence to reflect on the message]

The Lord's Prayer

arr. by The Gospel Travelers

Gospel Travelers of Annapolis, Maryland

REFLECTIONS ON THE INNER LIGHT

Thomas Wolfe and Friends, Annapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker)
(and a time for silent prayer)

Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns

Arundel Vocal Arts Society

***CLOSING COMMUNAL SINGING**

Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, Composers (1955)

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

***BENEDICTION**

The Reverend Diana Carroll

THE SHOFAR

The Shofar is an ancient instrument made of horn, traditionally that of a ram. It is used in synagogue services including Rosh Hashanah and at the very end of Yom Kippur. The Shofar is blown that prayers might be heard by God.

***SHARING NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS**

***MUSIC TO SEND US FORTH**

As you leave this worship celebration you are invited to make a free-will offering to help defray this evening's expenses.

Please join us for refreshments in fellowship hall after the service.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN), Eastport United Methodist Church, and the community thank everyone for taking the time to attend this celebration.

Special thanks are extended to all participants named in this program, to all who worked behind the scenes, and to all those who contributed refreshments for fellowship.

Please join us again next year and bring friends and family!

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH – PAST AND PRESENT

AWAKE Ministries is a faith-based multicultural movement of human reconciliation that edifies the worth and dignity in all human beings by inspiring and empowering them to live bold and compassionate lives. (*Actualize your **Wisdom** Awaken to your **Karma** and **Engage** the process.*)

The Bahá'í Faith is a monotheistic religion founded by Bahá'u'lláh in 19th-century Persia, emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind. In the Bahá'í Faith, religious history is seen to have unfolded through a series of divine messengers, each of whom established a religion that was suited to the needs of the time and the capacity of the people. These messengers have included Abraham, the Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad and others, and most recently the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

Buddhism is a religion and philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices, largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, who lived some 2,500 years ago in what is modern-day Nepal. Siddhartha abandoned his sheltered, princely life and sought instead to understand the inescapable sufferings of every human being—birth, aging, sickness and death—and the means by which these sufferings could be overcome. In the Lotus Sutra, regarded by many practitioners as his most essential teaching, the Buddha taught that every living being has a Buddha nature, the manifestation of which enables one to enjoy absolute happiness and to act with boundless compassion.

Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus as presented in canonical gospels and other New Testament writings. Adherents of the Christian faith are known as Christians. Christianity teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, God having become human and the savior of humanity. The Roman Catholic Church and different mainline Protestant churches, among them Episcopalians, Evangelical Lutherans, United Methodists, Presbyterians, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, have all been represented at this interfaith service.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) or, more informally, *Mormons*, view faith in Jesus Christ and his atonement as the central tenet of their religion. LDS theology includes the Christian doctrine of salvation only through Jesus Christ, though LDS doctrines regarding the nature of God and the potential of mankind differ from mainstream Christianity. LDS scriptural texts include the

Bible (both Old and New Testaments), the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Evolve is a loving spiritual community which follows the inclusiveness exemplified by Jesus and honors the wisdom of other spiritual teachers. An original blessing community located in Annapolis, Maryland, Evolve also is an online place to connect with people from around the world who care about Creation Spirituality as a practice and movement. Evolve understands the Divine in life through many lenses, including Creation Spirituality, upon which liturgical seasons and weekly worship are built. Creation Spirituality honors four spiritual paths to know God: Awe and Wonder, Emptying, Creativity, and Transformation.

Islam is the monotheistic religion articulated by the Qur'an, a text considered by its adherents to be the verbatim word of God, and by the teachings and normative example of Muhammad, considered by them to be the last prophet of God. An adherent of Islam is called a Muslim. Muslims believe that God is one and incomparable, and the purpose of existence is to worship God. Religious concepts and practices include the five pillars of Islam, which are basic concepts and obligatory acts of worship, and the following of Islamic law. Most Muslims are Sunni or Shia.

Judaism is the religion, philosophy, and way of life of the Jewish people. Originating in the Hebrew Bible and explored in later texts such as the Talmud, Judaism is considered by religious Jews to be the expression of the covenantal relationship God developed with the Children of Israel. Judaism claims a historical continuity spanning more than 3,000 years. It is one of the oldest monotheistic religions, and the oldest to survive into the present day.

The **Religious Society of Friends** has Christian roots and stresses the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, as there is no minister. Members are known as Friends, or popularly as Quakers. The movement began in mid-17th century England; emphasizes a personal, direct experience of Divine Spirit (the "inward Light," the "Christ within"), informed by the Bible; and welcomes the fellowship of all seekers.

The **Seventh-day Adventist Church** is a Protestant Christian denomination distinguished by its observance of Saturday, the original seventh day of the Judeo-Christian week, as the Sabbath, and by its emphasis on the imminent second coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ. Much of the theology of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church corresponds to Protestant Christian teachings such as the Trinity and the infallibility of Scripture. Distinctive teachings include the unconscious state of the dead and the doctrine of an investigative judgment.

Unitarian Universalism is a religion characterized by support for a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Unitarian Universalists do not share a creed; rather, they are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth and by the understanding that an individual's theology is a result of that search and not obedience to an authoritarian requirement. Unitarian Universalists draw on many different theological sources and have a wide range of beliefs and practices.

The Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network

"Working Together to Benefit All"

The *Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)* is a coalition of faith representatives who collaborate to raise awareness and change systemic injustices in the Greater Annapolis area.

The purpose of GAIN is to foster community and justice in the local area through raising awareness of issues, supporting their member faith groups, and sharing talents to achieve this goal.

GAIN is an outgrowth of *Churches Without Boundaries* which dates back to the early 2000's when representatives from Asbury United Methodist Church, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church joined together to work for the common good. Faith representatives and citizens from the greater Annapolis area are invited to take part in this joint effort.

*May we practice peace in our hearts,
in our homes,
in our communities,
and in our world.*

*And now we welcome the New Year,
full of things that have never been.*

*Happy New Year
2017*