



Interfaith Clergy Convocation on Immigration Reform Prayer Service

January 11, 2010

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

5501 Main St.

Houston, Texas 77004

Participants

Reverend Harvey Clemons
Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, Presider
Texas Conference of the United
Methodist Church

Reverend Mike Cole
General Presbyter, Presbytery of New
Covenant

Rabbi David Lyon
Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Bishop Rufus Kyles
Bishop, Southeast Jurisdictional Bishop
of the Church of God In Christ

Rt. Rev. Andrew Doyle
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Bishop Michael Rinehart
Bishop, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast
Synod, ELCA

Cantor Robert Gerber
Cantor, Congregation Beth Israel

Rabbi David Rosen
Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth
Yeshurun

Rev. Luis Ramirez
Song Leader, Servants of Christ Parish

PROCESSIONAL

Holy, Holy, Holy (English/Spanish)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! la inmensa muchedumbre
De ángeles que cumplen tu santa voluntad,
Ante ti se postra, bañada de tu lumbre,
Ante ti que has sido, que eres y serás.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! la gloria de tu nombre
Vemos en tus obras en cielo, tierra y mar;
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! te adorará todo hombre,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.

© Reginal Heber, lyricist, 1826; John Van Dykes, composer, 1861

WELCOME/PURPOSE

**Bishop Huie
Presider**

INVOCATION

Bishop Doyle

Let the people praise you, O God:
Let all the peoples praise you.
Day by day we bless you;
We praise your name for ever.
Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope in increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that spoils abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, self, or custom, precepts that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of love to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Rabbi Lyon

Leviticus 19:32-34

Stand up in the presence of the aged, and show respect for the old; thus shall you fear your God.
I am the LORD

When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him.

You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you;
have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I,
the LORD, am your God.

מִפְּנֵי יְשִׁיבָה תִּמְקֹם וְהִזְדַּרְתָּ פָּנֵי זָקֵן וְזָקֵנָה אֶת פְּאֵל הַיָּד אֲנִי יְהוָה: פ
וְכִי יִיגַד וְרָאָתְךָ גֵר בְּאַרְצְךָ לֹא תִוָּגֵד וְאִתּוֹ:
בְּאֶזְרַח מִמֶּנּוּ יִהְיֶה לְךָ הַגֵּר וְהַגֵּר אֶתְכֶם וְאַהֲבַתְּ לּוֹ כְּמִוֶּן כִּי יִגֵּר יָם הָיִיתָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם אֲנִי
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיְכֶם:

PSALM 118
Psalm of David

Cantor Gerber

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
For His loving kindness is everlasting
Oh let Israel say,
"His loving kindness is everlasting"
Oh let the house of Aaron say,
"His loving kindness is everlasting"
Oh let those who fear the LORD say,
"His loving kindness is everlasting"
From my distress I called upon the LORD;
The LORD answered me and set me in a large place.
The LORD is for me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?
The LORD is for me among those who help me;
Therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
Than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
Than to trust in princes.
All nations surrounded me;
In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off.
They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me;
In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off.
They surrounded me like bees;
They were extinguished as a fire of thorns;
In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off.
You pushed me violently so that I was falling,
But the LORD helped me.
The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.
The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
The right hand of the LORD is exalted;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
I will not die, but live,
And tell of the works of the LORD.
The LORD has disciplined me severely,
But He has not given me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness;
I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
The righteous will enter through it.
I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me,
And You have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief corner stone.
This is the LORD'S doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day which the LORD has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
O LORD, do save, we beseech You;
O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God, and He has given us light;
Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I give thanks to You;
You are my God, I extol You.
Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
For His loving kindness is everlasting.

HAFTORAH

Jeremiah 22:3-5

Rabbi Rosen

Thus says the LORD: Do what is right and just. Rescue the victim from the hand of his oppressor. Do not wrong or oppress the resident alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

If you carry out these commands, kings who succeed to the throne of David will continue to enter the gates of this palace, riding in chariots or mounted on horses, with their ministers, and their people.

But if you do not obey these commands, I swear by myself, says the LORD: this palace shall become rubble.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 John 4:20-21

Rev. Clemons

If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:35-40

Rev. Cole

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

Naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

HOMILY/REFLECTION

Cardinal DiNardo

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Bishop Rinehart

On this day of new beginnings, with hearts lifted high in hope, may we be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the stranger:

Please respond, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For an end to the violence and poverty that displace so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For migrant workers that they may labor in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all God's children will be protected, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

For migrants, refugees, and strangers in our midst, that they may find hope in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant us Lord, the people of this country, gathered from all races, creeds, and cultures, the courage to embrace our wondrous diversity. May our prideful divisions cease that together we may live in harmony as one family under God.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Bishop Huie and
All Leaders**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

Lord make us servants of your peace: where there is hate,
may we sow love; where there is hurt may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom,
may we sow hope; where all is night may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in for giving are for given.

St. Francis of Assisi, 13th century, © Adapted, Sebastian Temple, 1967

CLOSING PRAYER
Come, O Holy Spirit!

Bishop Kyles

Come open us to the wonder, beauty, and dignity
Of the diversity found in each culture,
In each face, and in each experience
We have of the other among us.

Come, fill us with generosity
As we are challenged to let us go and
Allow others to share with us
The goods and beauty of the earth.

Come, heal the divisions that keep us
From seeing the face of God in all men, women, and children.

Come, free us to stand with and for those
Who must leave their own lands
In order to find work, security, and welcome in
A new land, one that has enough to share.

Come, bring us understanding, inspiration, wisdom, and
the courage needed to embrace change and stay on the journey.

Come, O Holy Spirit, show us the way.

BENEDICTION

Bishop Huie

Loving God, send us forth with a renewed connection to immigrant people. May our own hopes, dreams, and desires, be rooted more deeply with theirs. And guide us as a global community so we may one day soon see everyone as our brothers and sisters.

And may the Lord bless us and commission us to bring about justice, peace and respect for life in this world.

ALL: Amen.

SOUNDING OF THE SHOFAR

Cantor Gerber

RECESSIONAL HYMN
Santa María Del Camino

VEN CON NOSOTROS A CAMINAR,
SANTA MARIA VEN.

Mientras recorres la vida,
Tú nunca solo estás,
Contigo por el camino,
Santa María va.

While you go through life,
You are never alone,
With you on the journey
Santa Maria goes.

Aunque te digan algunos
Que nada puede cambiar,
Lucha por un mundo nuevo,
Lucha por la verdad.

Even though some may tell you
That nothing will ever change,
Fight for the new world,
Fight for the truth.

Si por el mundo los hombres
Sin conocerse van,
No niegues nunca Tu mano
Al que contigo está.

Men of the world still
Without knowing will go,
Do not deny your hand
We are with you.

Aunque parezcan tus pasos
Inútil caminar,
Tú vas haciendo el camino
Otros lo seguirán.

Even though your footsteps
Appear unable to continue the walk,
You keep in preparing the journey
For others to follow.

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