

2023 Community-Wide Interfaith

Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 21

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Radical Inclusion:

All Are Welcome at the Table

## **Prelude**

### **Processional SPIRIT MOVING OVER CHAOS, David Ashley White - Choir and Congregation**

Spirit, moving over chaos,  
bringing light where there was none,  
be to us a light, revealing  
where the work is to be done.  
Praise to God, among us dwelling,  
praise the Spirit giving light.

*This song has special meaning to our host church, Trinity Presbyterian. They use it to start the new school year each Fall. Our organist for the evening is John Siler, Ph.D., the organist at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C. Serving as choir director is Dr. Justin Smith, Director of Choral Activities at Queens University of Charlotte and Director of Music and Cultural Events at Trinity Presbyterian Church.*

## **Welcome in Many Voices**

### **Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address - Voiced by Ramona Big Eagle**

*Ramona Moore Big Eagle (Tuscarora), M. Ed., is CEO of Dare to Soar Enterprises, as well as a speaker, author, storyteller, cultural educator, consultant, and workshop facilitator.*

**Welcome** - Rev. Dr. B. Steve Lindsley  
*Rev. Lindsley is the Senior Minister/Head of Staff at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Charlotte.*

**Introduction of Theme** - Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski  
*Rev. Polaski is the Executive Director of MeckMIN and a member of Park Road Baptist Church.*

**Heart to Heart: A Reflection** -- Ayya Sudhamma  
*Ayya (Ven.) Sudhamma is the abbess and Resident Bhikkhuni of the Charlotte Buddhist Vihara.*

**Musical Presentation: DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE**, arr.  
**Mark Miller** - Interfaith Choir

**“Our lived experiences of exclusion and inclusion”** --Dr. Jean So  
*Dr. So is a former student affairs and higher education administrator now serving within her family's poultry services company. She currently attends Bridge Koinonia Church in Charlotte.*

**Small groups** --“What’s your lived experience of exclusion and inclusion?”

**“Thanksgiving: an opportunity to bring everyone to the table”** - Diego Torres  
*Diego Torres is the Immigrant Integration Specialist at the Latin American Coalition.*

**Reflections on the MeckMIN Table**  
*Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise is President of the MeckMIN Board of Directors and an organizer with GreenFaith.*

**Litany** -- Written and led by Rev. Dr. Paul A. McAllister

Leader: Today we are grateful for the Spirit who radically includes us. We confess with Paul

the Apostle, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." For embracing the malice of hatred and being at ease with strife that divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, faith from faith.

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: The covetous desires of people and nations to impoverish others and possess what is not their own.

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the beauty of earth.

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: Our envy of the accomplishments, welfare and happiness of others,

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the hungry, the immigrant, the refugee,

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: The lust which dishonors the honorable bodies of men, women and children,

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves,  
and flee from trustworthy faith in God,

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: Surely, forgiveness is the act of the strong,  
and so our plea is,

People: Father, forgive.

Leader: Moses asked the question, "Who is like you,  
O Lord? Majestic in holiness, awesome  
in splendor, doing wonders?"

People: There is none like you.

Leader: May we strive to be more like you, being kind  
to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving and restoring  
one another just as you have included, forgiven and  
restored us.

*Rev. Dr. Paul A. McAllister is the Founder and President  
of Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvement and a  
member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in  
Charlotte.*

**"What is radical inclusion?"** - Senior Bishop Jacquelyn  
Holland  
*Bishop Holland, a leader in the Unity Fellowship  
Church Movement, believes that radical love and  
authentic living is true "justice".*

**Call & Response** - Bishop Holland and Prableen Kaur

*Prableen is a junior at Providence Day School and the Sikh Youth representative for Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar. Prableen Kaur is a junior at Providence Day School and the Sikh Youth representative for Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar*

**Small groups:** “What’s your take-away from tonight? What resonated for you? What was challenging? What will you do differently?”

**Every Praise** - Friendship Missionary Baptist Liturgical Dancers

*The dancers are Carolyn Walker, Ingrid Humphrey, Alisa Kennedy, Kieta Davis-McGill, Vivian Robinson, Sheila Thompson.*

**Call to Action** - Philip Blount

*Philip Blount is a global messenger for Special Olympics, a Special Olympics USA World Games Gold Medalist, the inspiration for Philips Academy, and a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church.*

**Offertory Appeal** - Shawn Dalrymple

*Elder Shawn R. Dalrymple is devoted to the Advocacy Program at Crisis Assistance Ministries and is an Associate Minister at New Hope Baptist Church on Hawthorne Lane in Charlotte, NC.*

The offering is split between MeckMIN and Crisis Assistance Ministries

**Offertory Music** - There Is a Balm in Gilead

*C.C. Cooper, Soloist*

**Closing Words** - Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski

**Closing Song** -- Let There Be Peace on Earth - Choir and  
Congregation

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, we are family,  
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 in peace  
eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

**Postlude**

**Reception**

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service for  
a punch and cookies reception.*

*Thank You to Our Sponsors:*

Humana

2541

First Presbyterian Church

Wedgewood Community Church

Becky Schisler

Beverly & Dick Hester

*Thank you to Rev. Missy Solomon for sharing her Inter-faith altar displaying items representative of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Indigenous faith traditions and Earth-based spirituality. She is available after the service to discuss the symbols.*

*Thank you to Brother Timothy Lee and Dr. Harriette Richard from Friendship Missionary Baptist for signing at tonight's service.*

*Thank you to Scott Olinger for serving as our photographer this evening.*

*Thank you to the wonderful committee members who helped to plan this service:*

Andrea Betaudier  
Carol Sugg  
Jacquelyn Holland  
Diego Torres  
Lisa Bovee-Kemper  
Paul A. McAllister  
and committee chair Zach Surber

*Thank you to our host church Trinity Presbyterian for going above and beyond in your hospitality.*