

AN INTERFAITH NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP CELEBRATION

December 31, 2018
6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Program
7:00 p.m. Worship



Sponsored by
Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network

Hosted by
Eastport United Methodist Church
926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
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Please note:

We invite you to honor the contribution of each religious tradition to this celebration by holding a holy silence after the prayers, readings or chants, or to respond with a simple "Amen" or appropriate response from your religious tradition.

Your applause is welcome after the musical offerings.

PRE- SERVICE PROGRAM

Meditation from Thais

Jules Massenet

Carolyn Sonnen, flute

JoAnn Kulesza, piano

O Rest in the Lord from 'Elijah'

Felix Mendelssohn

Philip Greenfield, vocal

JoAnn Kulesza, piano

All Souls Welcome

(see insert)

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

Max Ochs, Artist

Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

Come On, Ring Those Bells

Andrew Culverwell; arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

The Heavenly Bells of Eastport United Methodist Church

Margie Hughes, Director

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

WELCOME

Sandra Solomon, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Thomas Wolfe, Annapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker)
Co-Chairs, Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)

CALL TO PRAYER

Samir Ismail

Islamic Society of Annapolis

Athan

(Islamic Call to Prayer)

*CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

This Is My Song – Finlandia

Lloyd Stone, Composer

This is my song, oh God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
This is my song, oh God of all the nations;
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

**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
Second Book of Nephi, Chapter 26
President Pace J. McConkie, Maryland Baltimore Mission
formerly, President of the Annapolis Maryland Stake
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness.

He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for He loveth the world, even that He layeth down His own life that He may draw all men unto Him. Wherefore, He commandeth none that they shall not partake of His salvation.

Behold, doth He cry unto any saying: Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but He saith: Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey without money and without price.

Behold, hath He commanded any that they should depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.

Hath He commanded any that they should not partake of His salvation? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but He hath given it free for all men; and He hath commanded His people that they should persuade all men to repentance.

Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of His goodness? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto another, and none are forbidden . . .

And He inviteth them all to come unto Him and partake of His goodness; and He denieth none that come unto Him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and He remembereth the heathen; *and all are alike unto God*, both Jew and Gentile.

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.

Blowing in the Wind

Bob Dylan

Max Ochs

Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

READING AND PRAYER FROM THE BAHÁ'Í WRITINGS

Douglas Minard

Baha'i Community of Anne Arundel County East

“Glory be unto Thee, O God, for Thy Manifestation of Love to mankind! O Thou, who art our Life and Light, guide Thy servants to Thy Way, and make them rich in Thee and free from all save Thee.

O God, teach them Thy Oneness, and give unto them a realization of Thy Unity; that they may see no one save Thee. Thou art the Merciful and the Giver of Bounty!

O God, create in the hearts of Thy beloved the fire of Thy Love, that it may burn away the thought of everything save Thee.

Reveal unto them, O God, Thy Exalted Eternity; that Thou hast ever been and will always be, and that there is no God save Thee. Verily, in Thee will they find comfort and strength!"

-Baha'u'llah, Baha'i Scriptures

"O CHILDREN OF MEN!

Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. Such is My counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory."

-Baha'u'llah, The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah

"O Thou kind Lord! O Thou Who art generous and merciful! We are servants of Thy threshold and are gathered beneath the sheltering shadow of Thy divine unity. The sun of Thy mercy is shining upon all, and the clouds of Thy bounty shower upon all. Thy gifts encompass all, Thy loving providence sustains all, Thy protection overshadows all, and the glances of Thy favor are cast upon all. O Lord! Grant Thine infinite bestowals, and let the light of Thy guidance shine. Illumine the eyes, gladden the hearts with abiding joy. Confer a new spirit upon all people and bestow upon them eternal life. Unlock the gates of true understanding and let the light of faith shine resplendent. Gather all people beneath the shadow of Thy bounty and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breeze. May they receive illumination from the same source of light. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful, the Omnipotent."

- 'Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i Prayers

We Need a Silent Night in Here

Marsha J. Moors-Charles; arr. Chuck Bell

Arundel Vocal Arts Society

JoAnn Kulesza, Director

A READING FROM THE QUR'AN

From Surah 25:61-70

Samir Ismail

Islamic Society of Annapolis

61: Blessed is He who has placed in the sky great stars and placed therein a [burning] lamp and luminous moon.

62: And it is He who has made the night and the day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.

63: And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace,

64: And those who spend [part of] the night to their Lord prostrating and standing [in prayer]

65: And those who say, "Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell. Indeed, its punishment is ever adhering;

66: Indeed, it is evil as a settlement and residence."

67: And [they are] those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that, [justly] moderate

68: And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed], except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty.

69: Multiplied for him is the punishment on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein humiliated -

70: Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.

The First Song of Isaiah

music, Thomas Merton; composer Ray Urwin

Richard Smith

Cantor, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Eastport

A CHANT FROM THE BUDDHIST WRITINGS
Excerpt from the Metta [Loving-Kindness] Sutta
Robert A. Ertman
Cantors, Mindfulness Practice Group of Annapolis

Wishing: in gladness and in safety
May all beings be at ease,
Whatever living beings there may be,
Whether they are weak or strong omitting none,
The great or the mighty, medium, short, or small,
The seen or the unseen,
Those living near or far away,
Those born and those to be born.
May all beings be at ease.
Let none deceive another
Or despise any being in any state.
Let none through anger or ill-will
Wish harm upon another.
Even as a mother protects with her life
Her child, her only child,
So with a boundless heart
Should one cherish all living beings,
Radiating kindness over the entire world
Spreading upwards to the skies
And downwards to the depths,
Outwards and unbounded,
Freed from hatred and ill-will.

A READING FROM THE QUAKER WRITINGS
Thomas Wolfe
Annapolis Friends Meeting

That there is universal Light, the universality of all ages has plentifully testified. There is nothing more constant now that can plead either such antiquity or general consent. Not a nation in the world ever knew an age in

which it was destitute of the discovery of internal Light. The content of mankind, the goodness and justice of God, and the reason of the things itself, plead strongly for the universality of this Light, and for Friends to take this Light off the shelf.

Testimony Stated and Vindicated 1673, William Penn (p 271)

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

A READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES

From Philippians 4, New International Version

The Reverend Michelle Mejia

Pastor

Eastport United Methodist Church

1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTIONS ON PEACE
The Reverend Dr. Carletta Allen
Pastor

Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis

[We will observe silence to reflect on the message]

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 Rev. Dr. Carletta Allen

THE SHOFAR

Rabbi Doctor Moshe Shualy

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

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.

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.

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.

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

*May there be
Peace in our hearts
Peace in this place
Peace in our land
And throughout the world
Peace*

*Happy New Year
2019*

*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)