

20th Annual New Year's Eve Interfaith Vigil For Peace

“Commitment to Compassion”



Sponsored by Sangha Shantivanam

Hosted by Holy Cross Catholic Church

December 31, 2023

Tonight's MC's: Ziggy Rendler-Bregman and Mary Sue Babb
Sangha Shantivanam

Musicians: Robert Hansen, sarode, guitar; Vileena Purpuri, harmonium;
Anne Cleveland, flute; Michael Santa Cruz, percussion

Music Prelude: Ganesha Sharanam Chant, Hinduism

Welcome: Father Manny Recera, Pastor, Holy Cross Church

Land Acknowledgement: Chris Nunez, Parishioner

Compassionate Breathing Practices: Radha Vignola, Integral Yoga

Tonight's Presenters:

David DeCosse, Santa Cruz Bread and Roses Catholic Worker
Interfaith peacemaking community serving the poor

Rabbi Eli Cohen, Judaism
Chadeish Yameinu, Jewish Renewal of Santa Cruz

Members of Santa Cruz Friends' Meeting, Christianity
Quakers, Religious Society of Friends

Edward L. Martinez III, Muezzin, Islam

Adora Deva, Tibetan Buddhism
Sacred Dance in the traditions of Buddhist Tara Dance
and Dances of Universal Peace

Ann and Brian Miller, The Baha'i Faith

Akindele Bankole, Yoruba Mystical Wisdom of Nigeria

Closing:

The Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Auld Lang Syne

Chants, Prayers, and Inspirational Presentations

Robert Hansen, Hinduism

Ganesha Sharanam Chant

Om Ganesha, Ganesha Om

Om Ganesha, Ganesha Om

Ganesha Sharanam, Sharanam Ganesha

Ganesha Sharanam, Sharanam Ganesha

Om Gam Ganapataye Namoh Namah

Om Gam Ganapataye Namoh Namah

Land Acknowledgement, by Chris Nunez

This land on which we gather today is the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe, where for thousands of years their people lived and worked, caring for Mother Earth as they ate and slept, honored their creator, and buried their dead. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma.

David DeCosse, Santa Cruz Bread and Roses Catholic Worker

Postscript of *The Long Loneliness*, by Dorothy Day

We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know [God] in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on.

Rabbi Eli Cohen, Judaism

Love is the only power

Love is the only way

Love, love - our love

Watch our circle grow.

Members of Santa Cruz Friends' Meeting, Christianity

Hymn: "Teach Me to Stop and Listen" by Ken Medema

Teach me to stop and listen, teach me to center down,
Teach me the use of silence, teach me where peace is found.
Teach me to hear your calling, teach me to search your word,
Teach me to hear in silence, things I have never heard.
Teach me to be collected, teach me to be in tune.
Teach me to be directed, silence will end so soon.
Then when it's time for moving, grant it that I may bring
To every day and moment, peace from a silent spring.

Poem: Excerpt from "The Meeting" by John Greenleaf Whittier 1807-1892

And so, I find it well to come
For deeper rest to this still room,
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control.
The strength of mutual purpose plead
more earnestly our common needs,
And from the silence multiplied
By these still forms on either side,
The world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

Edward L. Martinez III, Muezzin, Islam

'Adhan' call to prayer

God is Great! God is Great! God is Great! God is Great!
I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.

The Arabic transliteration of the adhan, 'to listen', is as follows:

*Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!
Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah. Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah.
Ashadu anna Muhammadan Rasool Allah. Ashadu anna
Muhammadan Rasool Allah.
Hayya 'ala-s-Salah. Hayya 'ala-s-Salah.
Hayya 'ala-l-Falah. Hayya 'ala-l-Falah.
Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! La ilaha illa Allah.*

Adora Deva, Tibetan Buddhist Tara Dance

Beloved Tara
Luminous and Beautiful
Luminous and Beautiful
Luminous and Beautiful
With Devotion
I request
You Guide us to your
Blissful State.

Ann and Brian Miller, The Baha'i Faith

Song: Hollow Reed

O Lord! Make me a hollow reed from which the pith of self hath been blown that I may become a pure channel through which Thy love may flow unto others. (Repeat)

Prayer:

O Compassionate God! Thanks be to Thee for Thou hast awakened and made me conscious. Thou hast given me a seeing eye and favored me with a hearing ear, hast led me to Thy kingdom and guided me to Thy path. Thou hast shown me the right way and caused me to enter the ark of deliverance. O God! Keep me steadfast and make me firm and staunch. Protect me from violent tests and preserve and shelter me in the strongly fortified fortress of Thy Covenant and Testament. Thou art the Powerful. Thou art the Seeing. Thou art the Hearing.

O Thou the Compassionate God. Bestow upon me a heart which, like unto a glass, may be illumined with the light of Thy love, and confer upon me thoughts which may change this world into a rose garden through the outpourings of heavenly grace.

Thou art the Compassionate, the Merciful.
Thou art the Great Beneficent God.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

Akindele Bankole, Yoruba Mystical Wisdom of Nigeria

The Prayer to Consciousness

*Ìpònrí mi..., jòwó gbè mí
Orí ì mi..., jà fún mi
Orí inú ù mi..., bá mi gbé'rè oko dé'lé*

*Bí mo bá lówó lówó
Orí ni n ó rò fún
Orí ì mi, ìwo ni.*

*Bí mo bá bí'mo l'áiyé
Orí ni n ó rò fún
Orí ì mi, ìwo ni.*

*Ire gbogbo mi l'áiyé
Orí ni n ó rò fún
Orí ì mi, ìwo ni.
A tètè nîran
A tètè gbé ni k'òòsà
Kò s'òòsà tí í dá ni gbé
L'éyìn orí eni*

Translation:

My Higher self..., please support me.
My Orí..., advocate for me.
My inner self, my soul..., help bring home my reward.

When I have wealth in hand,
It is with my Orí that I confer.
My Orí, it is you

When I have a child,
It is with my Orí that I confer.
My Orí, it is you

All successes that I achieve in life,
It is with my Orí that I confer.
My Orí, it is you

The rush to see the future,
The rush to inquire from the Divine
Yet, Nothing can support a person
without Orí.

Ashe!

The Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand:
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Auld Lang Syne, by Robert Burns

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere
and gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right gude-willy waught,
for auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Refreshments: offered by Veg on the Edge,
a vegan restaurant committed to compassion for the animals.

