Choosing Unity Over Extremism: A Walking Pilgrimage

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015 • 2:00 PM

Memory speaks: we have seen this before. Forgive us, Holy One.

at Washington Hebrew Congregation

ADHAN (MUSLIM CALL TO PRAYER) • Imam Talib Shareef, President, Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque

LUKE 23:34 • Read by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington

“Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’”

REFLECTION • Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI • Led by Cardinal Wuerl; said by all

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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.

Faith calls: welcome the stranger.

at Washington National Cathedral

TALA‘A ‘L-BADRU ‘ALAYNÄ (WELCOMING SONG) • ADAMS Youths Faateha Syed, Jannah Syed and Ridwa Ullah

tala‘a ‘l-badru ‘alaynä
min thaniyāti ‘l-wadā’
wa‘ajab ‘l-shukru ‘alaynä
mā da‘ā li-l-lāhi dā’
‘ayyuha ‘l-mab‘ūthu finā
ji‘ta bi-l‘amri ‘l-mutā’
ji‘ta sharrafta ‘l-madinah
marhaban yā khayra dā’

The full moon rose over us
From the valley of Wada’
And it is incumbent upon us to show gratitude
For as long as anyone in existence calls out to God
Oh our Messenger (Emissary) amongst us
Who comes with the exhortations (good advices/commandments) to be heeded
You have brought to this city nobility
Welcome you who call us to a good way

EXODUS 22:21 • Read by Rabbi David Saperstein, U. S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom

“You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger.
For you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

כיהêm בראâm מזרימ
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REFLECTION • Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig, Senior Rabbi, Washington Hebrew Congregation

THE NEW COLOSSUS BY EMMA LAZARUS • Led by Ambassador Saperstein; said by all

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I life my lamp beside the golden door!”

Reconciliation demands: mercy and compassion, civility and safety.

at Islamic Center

BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR • Roger M. Lebbin

SCRIPTURE READING • Imam Dr. Abdullah Khouj, The Islamic Center of Washington, DC

QURAN 49:13: “O humankind! We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know and honor each other (not that you should despise one another). Indeed the most honorable of you in the sight of God is the most righteous.

QURAN 3:133-134: Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden (paradise) whose width is that of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous - Those who spend (freely), whether in prosperity or in adversity, who restrain (their) anger and pardon (all) men - for God loves those who do good.

QURAN 24:35: God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche, and within it a lamp; the Lamp enclosed in Glass; the glass a brilliant star, lit from a blessed Tree, an Olive neither of the East nor of the West whose Oil is well-nigh luminous though fire scarce touched it. Light upon Light! God doth guide whom He will to His Light.”

A CALL TO CONSCIENCE • Dalia Mogahed, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

PRAYERS AT THE CLOSING

LEADER Technology changes the way we relate: the stranger grows stranger, the other more feared, inventing more “phobias”, discovering more “isms”. Inherited intolerance spawns our next bias, division grows stronger, the threat more profound!

ALL God of Forgiveness, help us to forgive.

LEADER Standing on tolerance, waiting to change, trying to live out a rule so divine: love your neighbor!

ALL Compassionate God, free us to love.

LEADER Beyond peace and the absence of war, beyond false certitude, and belligerent rants, beyond the limits of the letter and the presumption of privilege; a wonderful world beckons—even beyond tolerance. Joyfully different, refreshingly one! Common in origin! Uplifting in hope!

ALL God of all, help us to stand.

ALL Shoulder to shoulder, eye to eye, in wonderful variance, glimpsing a thread: Common Image, Spirit of One; ignorance recedes and fear must yield to living and sharing our manifold creeds!

BLESSING