**A person in a purple dress

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**14TH ANNUAL   
COMMONWEALTH INTERFAITH SERVICE:**

**PRAYERS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

**May 23, 2022, 6:00 pm**

**Market Square Presbyterian Church**

**Harrisburg**

**A celebration of our religious diversity**

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Logo by Rev. Virginia Parkum, Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism, Dragonfly Sangha

**14TH ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH INTERFAITH SERVICE:**

**PRAYERS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

**May 23, 2022**

**Gathering Music** *Mr. Tyler Canonico*

**Welcome from Market Square Presbyterian Church** *The Rev. Kim D. Wadlington*

**Welcome to this Service** *The Rev. Sandra L. Strauss*

**A Tribute to Our Friend Michael Sand** *The Rev. Sandra L. Strauss*

*The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi*

**Opening the Altar** *Shuso Rachael Kesler*

**Chalice Lighting** *The Rev. Joan M. Sabatino*

**Introduction**  *The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi*

&*The Rev. Yvette Davis*

**Call to Prayer** *Dr. David Peisner, Jewish shofar call1*

*The Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Christian call to worship*

*Mr. Labeeb Rehman, Islamic call to prayer2*

*One read by Mr. Ollie Silver*

**One:** We come, unified in love, to lift our communal prayers for a common purpose. Our faith traditions call for us to live together in peace and love especially as we witness the mass movement of people due to factors beyond their control.

**Many: We come together to lift our voices in prayer. Our prayers are a call for justice and peace for those who have had to make the choice to move to safety and for those who have been forced to move due to economic hardship, environmental disasters, war, and persecution. For we cannot truly have peace while there are refugees trying to escape danger and are looking for their place of safety.**

**Narrative** *The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi*

**Music** ***Alleluia*** *The Sanctuary Choir of Market Square*

*Ralph Manuel*

**Prayer** *Ms. Sukhman Kaur Grewal*

*One read by Ms. Jennifer Ross*

**One:** We lament the hatred and the misunderstanding perpetrated against those who have had to flee their homes, their people, and their country.

**Many: May we look beyond of the label of refugee, migrant, or displaced person and see the faces and hearts of those in need. May our hearts be open to their plight, to their need for safety, and their sadness, that can be overwhelming, as they leave behind the lives they know including their community, family, and friends.**

**Narrative** *The Rev. Yvette Davis*

**Music *Ikh Shtey Unter a Bokserboym3/I Am Willing*** *Ms. Susan Leviton*

*Zhame Telesin, music Chava Alberstein/Holly Near*

**Prayer** *Seetharamaswamy ji Srimat Tirumala Peddinti*

*One read by Mr. Zachariah Ahmad*

**One:** We lament the fear that causes some to react with violence due to misunderstanding.

**Many: We must be mindful that becoming a refugee is not a choosing. One becomes a refugee as one leaves one’s home and possibly one’s country to escape danger, persecution, and bloody conflict. May our prayers encircle the refugee with strength and courage.**

**Narrative** *The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi*

**Prayer** *The Rev. Dr. Lori Hatch-Rivera*

*One read by Ms. Uzma Ahmad*

**One:** We lament the violence that has been poured down upon those who are in the midst of movement and escape. For the refugee is more than just the “stranger” mentioned in our holy writings.

**Many: The refugee, the forced migrant, the displaced human is a person. A person with a history, a person created by God. A person who is making hard choices and doing the best for family and self. A person in need of our prayers for their safety.**

**Narrative** *The Rev. Yvette Davis*

**Dance (video)** ***What the World Needs Now Is Love*** *Ms. Becky Boone*

*Jackie De Shannon/ Written by Hal David & Burt Bacharach*

**Prayer** *Ms. Karen Hurst*

*One read by The Rev. Anthony Alexander*

**One:** We lament the actions that lead to death for those who become refugees.

**Many: We are mindful that more than half the refugees in the world are women and children. We recall that more than 25% of the refugees have not only lost their home, but also their country. Their forced migration has taken them to new countries with new and strange languages, homes, and living conditions. Let us hold the refugee in our prayers.**

**Prayer** *Ms. Carol Zandieh*

**Prayer** *Father James Lease*

*One read by Ms. Deborah Olson*

**One:** We come together in our hope for justice for those who are displaced. We are mindful of those who offer a hand of hope and those who step into the chaos to provide support and positive attitudes reflecting God’s love.

**Many: May our prayers and actions be a ray of hope in the world. We are thankful for those who have answered the call and provided homes and a future for those displaced. We are thankful for those who are providing funds to help transfer a refugee out of danger to a place of security and for those who are actively on-site offering openness, solidarity, charity, and protection for those in need.**

**Music** ***Journey*** *The Market Square Ringers*

*Kyle Webber*

**Closing Narrative**  *The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi*

*& The Rev. Yvette Davis*

**Benediction** *Ms. Jennifer Ross (Jewish tradition)*

*The Rev. Dr. Amy D. Welin (Christian tradition)*

*Mr. Omar Alatar (Muslim tradition)*

**Closing Words/Invitation** *The Rev. Sandra L. Strauss*

**Closing Music** *Mr. Tyler Canonico*

A free will offering will be taken with proceeds to benefit the International Service Center.

**Participants**

Ms. Uzma Ahmad, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Mr. Zachariah Ahmad, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Mr. Omar Alatar, Islamic Center of Pennsylvania?

The Rev. Anthony Alexander, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Harrisburg

The Rev. Yvette Davis, Director, Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity

Ms. Beth Hager, Market Square Presbyterian Church, Photographer

The Rev. Dr. Lori Hatch-Rivera, Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit

Ms. Karen A. Hurst, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Shuso Rachael Kesler, Dragonfly Sangha, Harrisburg

Father James Lease, Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg

Ms. Susan Leviton, Susan Leviton Arts

The Market Square Ringers, Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, Mr. Tyler Canonico, Director

Ms. Deborah Olson, Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

Seetharamaswamy ji Srimat Tirumala Peddinti, Hindu American Religious Institute

Dr. David Peisner, Beth El Temple, Harrisburg

The Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Mr. Labeeb Rehman, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Ms. Jennifer Ross, Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

The Rev. Joan Sabatino, Unitarian Universalist Justice PA

The Sanctuary Choir of Market Square, Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, Mr. Tyler Canonico, Director

The Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi, The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States

The Rev. Sandra Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches

The Rev. Kimberley Wadlington, Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

The Rev. Dr. Amy D. Welin, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Harrisburg

Ms. Carol Zandieh, The Baha'i Faith

1A shofar is an instrument made from the horn of a ram or other kosher animal. It was used in ancient Israel to announce the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) and call people together. It is also blown on Rosh Hashanah, marking the beginning of the Jewish New Year.

**2Adhan/Islamic Call to Prayer:**

*Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar (2x)* Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest (2x)

*Ash-hadu allaa ilaaha ill-Allah (2x)* I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah (God) (2x)

*Ash-hadu anna Muhammad-arr-rasool- ullah (2x)* I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah (2x)

*Hayy al-as-Salaah (2x)* Come to Prayer (2x)  
*Hayy al-al-Falaah (2x)* Come to Prosperity (2x)  
*Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar* Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest  
*Laa ilaah illa-Llah* There is none worthy of worship except Allah

The following phrases are added in the call to prayer for the pre-dawn (Fajr) Prayer after “Hayy al-al Falaah”

*As-salaau khairum-minan-nawm (2x)* Prayer is better than sleep (2x)

3***Ikh Shtey Unter a Bokserboym***

I stand beneath a carob tree. I got there, but not easily.

 I sit beneath a fig tree, and all around, it’s green and free.

 I lie beneath an almond tree.

It appeared in a dream to me.

 A carob, a fig, and almond tree – I stop my tears, but not easily…

With many, many thanks to Market Square’s Nancy Sheets and Newman Stare, without whom this service would not work this evening!