

THE THANKSGIVING TRIBUNE

Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose, California

Thanksgiving 2015

*Come,
Ye Thankful People,
Come*



Some of the participants in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the Stone Church of Willow Glen.



Rabbi Dana Magat of Temple Emanu-El and Mark Cahn blowing the shofar (ram's horn).

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Nothing is more challenging than getting people who deal with universal truths to agree on what they are.

Truths tend, over time, to become encrusted with lots of other things held to be universal that are really parochial.

For Thanksgiving, our church and nine other religious groups around town were successful in boiling down Thanksgiving to its essence – gratitude – so we could all gather in one place Tuesday night to celebrate and express it together.

It became possible for a Buddhist and a Muslim to speak from the pulpit of Stone Church of Willow Glen (our church) despite a cross embroidered on its paraments.

The odd aspect of our hosting plan was that – for logistical reasons – the committee in charge of decorating the church for Advent could only do its work earlier last week. So we had a Thanksgiving event in a sanctuary decorated for Christmas.

– Continued on next page



Muslim call to prayer

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

– Continued from previous page

Judging from the number of people who returned to photograph the decorations after we shared post-service pumpkin pie and cider in the social hall, if there were folks bothered by the symbols of a Christian holiday overlapping the more broadly religious, they were the hosts.

Perhaps this won't be a problem next Thanksgiving at Temple Emanu-El.

Participating communities

- Center for Spiritual Enlightenment
- Islamic Networks Group
- St. Martin of Tours (Catholic)
- Sanatan Dharma Kendra (Hindu)
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
- Sathya Sai Baba Center of Central San Jose
- Stone Church of Willow Glen (Presbyterian Church USA)
- Temple Emanuel-El (Reform Judaism)
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



A Muslim, a Christian, a follower of Sathya Sai Baba, pumpkin pie and apple cider.

Michael Janse
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints



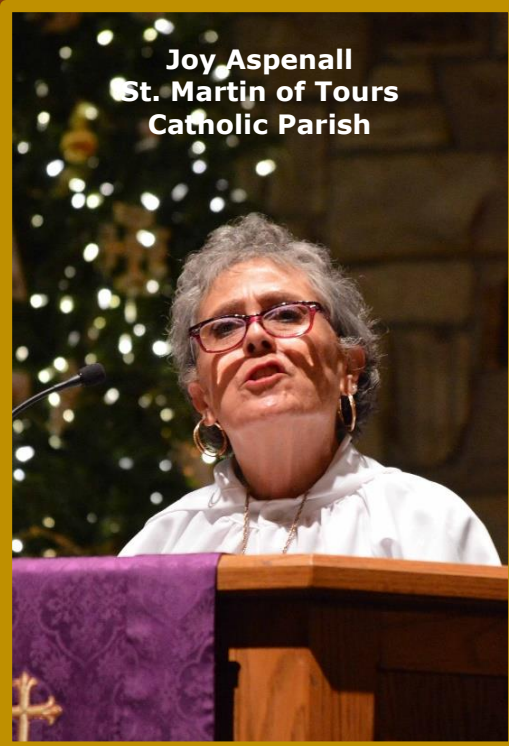
Mother and son



Beverly Kam
Center for Spiritual
Enlightenment



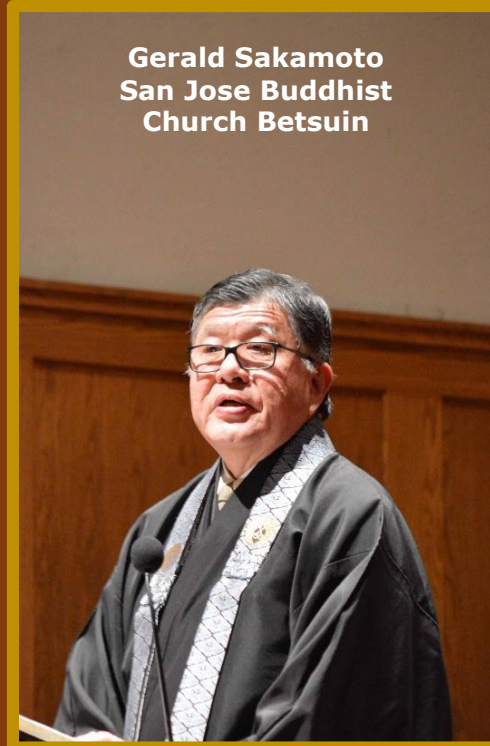
Joy Aspenall
St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Parish



Maha Elgenaidi
Islamic Networks
Group



Gerald Sakamoto
San Jose Buddhist
Church Betsuin



Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



David McCreath and Ken Henry of Stone Church lead the closing song,
Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."