

Song

"I Am America" by Shea Diamond

sung by The Cincinnati Men's Chorus

Twilight People Prayer, Rabbi Reuben Zellman

Birkat Cohanim Sefer Bamidbar/Book of Numbers 6:23

Eric George Tauber, Jewish tradition

Rabbi Yehuda ben Elazar speculated that Adam was originally created as an androgynous being, then separated into two distinct persons, Adam and Eva. The conversation went on to list multiple genders of those who live outside the binary of male and female. The Twilight People prayer celebrates gender diversity among us. The Mourner's Kaddish follows in the blessed memory of those who have passed from this world from AIDS, hate crimes, or despair. To make it more inclusive, I have changed the word "Israel" to "Adamah" (Humanity) because we grieve for all of Humanity, not just our own people.

Announcements and Dismissal

Becca Desai

Going Out Song

"Somebody's Hurtin' My Brother" by Yara Allen

The Rev. Alice Connor and Vox Veritatis

Please join us for a light reception in the fellowship hall.
Go in peace.

Your monetary support allows us to celebrate together in this way every year and to help a local grass-roots organization thrive. All donations over the cost of the event will be donated this year to Trans Advocacy Council. Use this QR code for any amount. →



A very special thanks to our financial sponsors:

A Catered Affair, Ariel Miller, Brian Moll, Caracole, God Space, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, The Interfaith Center of Miami University, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Anderson Township, Lynne Lefebvre, Mission Priority Board SONKA UCC, The Open Table Church, PRISM Cincinnati, Scott Knox, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, and the Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN.

Immense gratitude as well to:

the Multifaith Pride celebration committee: Eric George Tauber, Melinda Garza Moran, Michael Chanak, Mimi Chamberlin, Greg Griffith, Dale Lykins, Jeffrey Johnson, and Alice Connor; all our phenomenal musicians; and our intrepid ASL interpreters Jeffrey Johnson and Julie Miller.



We invite you to engage with the elements of this celebration in whatever way speaks to your own spiritual journey.

We are pro-participation and anti-judgment.

EMBRACING DIVINE DIVERSITY

Welcome

Dan Weyand-Geise, pastor of First UCC

Opening Prayer

Dr. Raj Bhathagar, Hindu practitioner

Hinduism originated in the Indian subcontinent over 4,000 years ago. It is a diverse and complex tradition with no single founder or central text, though key scriptures include the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and epics like the Mahabharata. Hinduism emphasizes dharma (duty), karma (action and consequence), samsara (reincarnation), and moksha (liberation). Hinduism values inner growth, cosmic order, and respect for all life. The inner growth can be achieved by performing rituals, serving humanity, yoga, which is self-discipline and fitness, meditation, and devotion.

Tribute to Bishop John Bell

The Rev. Alice Connor, Episcopal denomination of Christianity

History and Invitation

Cathy Allison, Transgender Advocacy Council

Songs

"We Are All Bound Up Together" music by Joan Szymko, text by Ellen Watkins Harper

"Siyahamba" transcribed by Andries van Tonder, possibly from a Zulu folk song

"Siyahamba meni loko lo/We are marching for a better world."
sung by Muse, Cincinnati's Women's Choir

Faith Practices

- Aa- Airyema Ishyō prayer from the Zoroastrian tradition

Becca and Fred Desai,

This ancient prayer from their sacred texts is composed in the Old Avestan language. In Zoroastrianism, love for one's fellow human beings is a central tenet, emphasizing compassion, kindness, and ethical conduct. The religion's core teachings revolve around the principles of good thoughts, good words, and good deeds which directly translate to loving kindness and positive interactions with others. While Fred offers the prayer, Becca will explain its meaning.

- A Pastoral Blessing from the Lutheran denomination of Christianity

The Rev. Melinda Garza Moran

In the Lutheran church, a pastoral blessing is a special blessing bestowed upon a group of people or an individual by the pastor. It serves as a form of prayer, inviting God's unconditional love, protection, and grace upon those receiving it. The blessing is extended to all of God's creation, without any exclusion. This blessing was originally presented during a Name Honoring service on Transgender Day of Visibility which coincided with Easter Day. We pray that this blessing will bring comfort and remind you that God has called you the Beloved.

God claims us in love – we claim each other in love.

- A Prayer from the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life* by Shantideva from the Buddhist tradition

Dr. Greg Griffith

Dr. G. is a member of the Sangha (congregation) at Gaden Samdrup Ling Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Colerain Township. He has received teachings and initiations in the Gelug tradition from many of the prominent Lamas in this lineage, including His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. For many years he has been a tireless advocate and ally to the queer community. This prayer is an elaboration and meditation on the Bodhisattva Vows taken by all Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhists to work selflessly on behalf of all sentient beings to bring an end to their sufferings and ultimately bring them to enlightenment.

Song

"Courage to be Who We Are" by Ruth Huber

"Bend the Arc" by Wendi Buck

sung by Vox Veritatis

Faith Practices

- Verse 71.9 of the Quran from the Islamic tradition

Fatima Emlemdi

Islam strongly encourages solidarity within the community, mutual

support, cooperation, and shared responsibility. A verse from the Quran highlights this principle: "The community, both men and women, are allies of one another. They enjoin good, forbid evil, establish peace, and spread goodness. Surely Allah will show mercy to them. Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise." This verse illustrates that all people men and women are considered allies—working together to promote righteousness, uphold justice, and fulfill their religious duties. By standing united in faith and action, they invite the mercy of Allah and strengthen the bonds that hold the community together.

- Druidic

Brian S. Morgan

Druidry/Celtic paganism is a spiritual path based on the ideals, cultures, and beliefs of the ancient Celts who inhabited ancient Western Europe, Britain, and Ireland and is a polytheistic spiritual belief system. The druids were the priests, judges, story-tellers, and record keepers of the Celtic peoples. They believed that humans were very much a part of nature and lived one's own life in harmony with the natural world and not act separate or rule over it just to hoard its resources.

- A Prayer from the Exvangelical and Deconstructed Faith Movement

Pastor Dale Lykins, The Open Table

A growing number of people have begun a critical re-examination of long-held religious beliefs, practices, and church cultures, often in response to experiences of spiritual abuse, political disillusionment, or theological doubts. While some leave faith entirely, others rebuild it in new forms, seeking a more authentic and compassionate expression. The deconstruction journey is deeply personal, often painful, but also rooted in a desire for integrity, healing, and community.

Song

"All of Me" by Kyle Pederson

sung by The Cincinnati Men's Chorus

Teaching

The Rev. Derek Terry, St. Peter United Church of Christ

The Rev. Derek Terry is pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, a warm and inclusive congregation grounded in a tradition of radical welcome and social justice. Nestled in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood, the church has been a spiritual home and community hub for 150 years—offering vibrant worship, engaging programs, and a commitment to serving all. Through its Open and Affirming ministry, St. Peter's actively partners with local organizations, making its space and heart available to neighbors from all walks of life.