

## Genesis – In the Beginning...



In 1976, St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth signed an historic agreement of co-ownership of a place of worship. In a world in which people fight wars and shed blood over religious differences, the two organizations stand as "or l'goyim," a light to the nations. The essence of Genesis is the strength of each of its individual congregations, and the mutual respect for each other's beliefs. It is a relationship built upon trust and understanding. It is an example for us, our children and the community at large that a church and synagogue live together in peace, respect and friendship.

One of the very special Genesis events is the "**Erev Thanksgiving**" service (as it is called by members of both St. Clare's and TBE). Since Thanksgiving is an American holiday, rather than a religious holiday, it is an ideal time for members of the two congregations to join together in a service of thanksgiving. The service is conducted by the clergy of both congregations, and, in a typical year, they are joined by the choirs of both St. Clare's and TBE. A portion is read from the Torah, and "the plate" is passed to collect donations for a local social service organization.

# TEMPLE BETH EMETH & ST. CLARE OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S INTERFAITH EREV THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 22, 2020, 7 pm

Rabbi Josh Whinston

Temple Beth Emeth

The Rev. Maryjane Peck

Interim Rector, St. Clare's

Kelly Scheu

Deacon Intern, St. Clare's

Cantor Regina S. Lambert-Hayut

Temple Beth Emeth

John Goodell

Director of Music, St. Clare's

Murray Rosenthal

President, Genesis Board



## **Genesis Vision**

By daily embracing mutual trust and respect,  
we partner with God and one another to heal a broken world.

## Welcome and Genesis Mission

Murray Rosenthal, President, Genesis Board

## Genesis Mission

The mission of Genesis of Ann Arbor is to exemplify interfaith understanding, cooperation, and friendship. And, through its Board, to steward its shared space in ways that strengthen St Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth and the broader community.

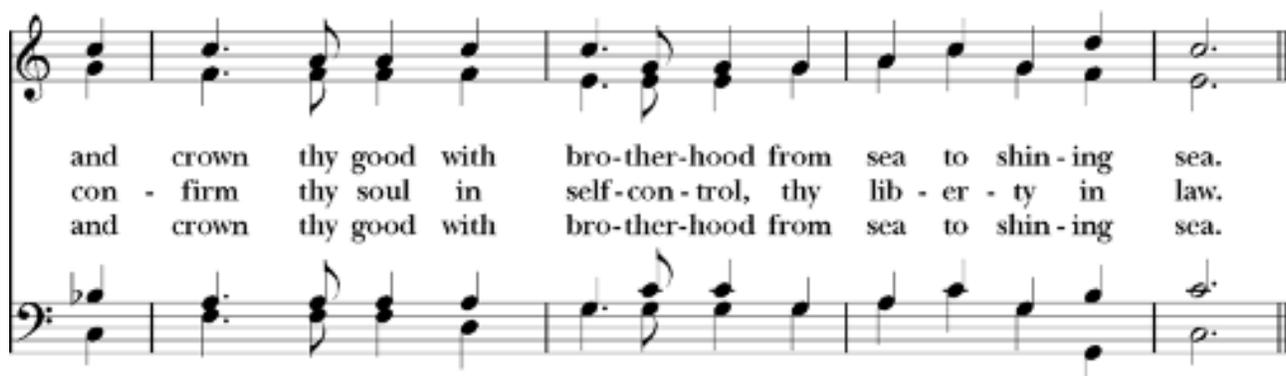
## Genesis Humanitarian Award

## Opening Hymn

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - ci - ous skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,



and crown thy good with bro-ther-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.  
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law.  
 and crown thy good with bro-ther-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.

*Fourth Verse:*

O beautiful for nation forged, from peoples of the earth,  
 Whose kinship grows from more than blood, and accident of birth!  
 America! America! Transcending faith and race,  
 May each new dawn shine bright upon your ever-changing face!

Words: v.1–3 Katherine Lee Bates (1850-1929), alt.; v.4 by Jonathan Levine.  
 Music: Materna, Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903).

**Opening Blessing** *(remain standing as you are able)*

**Rabbi:** Come, let us celebrate God’s gift of Hope that ignites our hearts even in times of stress, anxiety and turmoil, that by working together we become stronger in our mission providing a safe place for worship, service and fellowship.

**Reverend:** Come, let us rekindle the flame of Hope through our sharing in this Thanksgiving Service. Celebrating our partnership over the years of shared space, shared dreams and shared caring for each other and our communities of believers.

**Rabbi:** For these and the many blessings which sustain us each day, hear our prayers, O God, and grant us peace, friendship and fellowship throughout our lands and all lands. May it flow from our common place of worship, learning, and service to others like the love that makes us your people.

**All:** Amen.

## Torah Reading

### Genesis 28:10-17

(10) Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran. (11) He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of that place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. (12) He had a dream; a stairway was set on the ground and its top reached to the sky, and angels of God were going up and down on it. (13) And YHVH was standing beside him and God said, "I am YHVH, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring. (14) Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. (15) Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (16) Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely YHVH is present in this place, and I did not know it!" (17) Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven."

### בראשית כ"ח:י"ז-י"ז

(י) וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָנָה: (יא) וַיִּפְגַּע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם כִּי-בָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיִּשָּׂם מִרְאֲשׁוֹתָיו וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם הַהוּא: (יב) וַיִּחְלֶם וְהִנֵּה סֹלֶם מַצְבֵּי אֲרָצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מִגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְהִנֵּה מַלְאָכֵי אֱלֹהִים עֹלִים וְיֹרְדִים בּוֹ: (יג) וְהִנֵּה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֶיךָ אָבִיךָ וְאֵלֵהֶי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ לֹךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה וְלִזְרָעֶךָ: (יד) וְהִנֵּה זֶרְעֶךָ כֹּעֶפֶר הָאָרֶץ וּפְרָצֶתָ יָמָה וְקִדְמָה וְצָפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְנִבְרָכוּ בְּךָ כָּל-מִשְׁפְּחוֹת הָאָדָמָה וּבְזֶרְעֶךָ: (טו) וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי עֹמֵד וְשֹׁמְרֵתִיךָ כָּכָל אֲשֶׁר-תֵּלֶךְ וְהִשְׁבַּתִּיךָ אֶל-הָאָדָמָה הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא אֶעֱזָבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם-עָשִׂיתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתִּי לְךָ: (טז) וַיִּיקֶץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: (יז) וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מֵהַנִּירָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם-בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם:

**We are one** by Chana Rothman

Cantor Regina Hayut

In your face I see my own.  
I hear your story, you're not alone.  
In your eyes I see the journey of a thousand years,  
And now we stand together here.  
You wonder how we made it through.  
It's not just me, it's not just you.  
You wonder why I stand so proud;  
I say these words out loud:

We are many under one sky,  
We are many under one sun,  
We are many reasons why we are one,  
Together we are one.

The sun and moon they came before us,  
Show us where we're supposed to be.  
Born at the moment when hope was faded,  
So high the mountain, so wide the sea.  
We walk along with arms around us,  
And together we find our way.  
Our hearts are strong, our hope is boundless,  
Our tomorrow begins today.

We are many under one sky,  
We are many under one sun,  
We are many reasons why we are one,  
Together we are one.

One heart, singing out loud to the world,  
One song, one song, one family  
We hold each other strong,  
We move this world a long.

The task is great, the day is short,  
We cannot wait for news reports.  
We have our hands, we have our feet,  
And that's enough to plant the seeds.

We make our lives into works of art,  
You know it's never too late to start.  
Reach out, reach out, the time is now.

## **Brief Thanksgiving Reflection**

Rabbi Josh Whinston

### **A Psalm of Hope**

Psalm 30

- Reader 1** I will exalt you, O LORD,  
because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- Reader 2** O LORD my God, I cried out to you,  
and you restored me to health.
- Reader 1** You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- Reader 2** Sing to the LORD, you faithful servants;  
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.
- Reader 1** For God's wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
God's favor for a lifetime.  
weeping may spend the night,  
but joy comes in the morning.
- Reader 2** While I felt secure, I said,  
"I shall never be disturbed."
- Reader 1** You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."  
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
- Reader 2** I cried to you, O LORD;  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- Reader 1** "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit?  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"
- Reader 2** Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;  
O LORD, be my helper."
- Reader 1** You turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
- Reader 2** Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.



of that first Thanksgiving, he reminded all, "We, the Wampanoag, welcomed you, the white man, with open arms, little knowing that it was the beginning of the end."

Right now, with the pandemic, we worry about bringing into our homes friends, family, and loved ones to celebrate with us, because they may also bring in a virus, illness, disability, or death. We worry that whoever visits us over the coming holidays may bring with them "the beginning of the end." There is a certain irony here, one that is quite visible to the perceptions of many of our Native American neighbors.

We say the words, "We acknowledge with respect," but are we who live here now truly being respectful of the gifts and losses of the people who shared their lands with us? It was suggested that perhaps, as a small gesture of respect, of thanks beyond the words of acknowledgement, some of us may wish to make a contribution to local organizations that support Native American communities in Michigan with food and other resources.

- American Indian Health & Family Services of Southeastern MI, Inc.: <https://www.aihfs.org/donate.html>
- Dynamite Hills Farm GoFund Me: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/zhaawenimishinaam>
- Michigan Indian Elders: <https://www.michiganindianelders.org/donate.php>
- Native Food Alliance: <https://nativefoodalliance.org/get-involved/>

If you wish to learn more about the stories mentioned above, and how they connect with Jewish values, these are good places to start.

- Smithsonian Institute: American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving [https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving\\_poster.pdf](https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf)
- The Suppressed Speech of Wamsutta (Frank B.) James, Wampanoag. To have been delivered at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1970 [http://www.uaine.org/suppressed\\_speech.htm](http://www.uaine.org/suppressed_speech.htm)
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism: Thanksgiving and Native American Relations <https://rac.org/thanksgiving-and-native-american-relations>

**Please remain on-line to join us in the Virtual Social Gathering of  
St. Clare's, Temple Beth Emeth and the Genesis Board.**

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## **Genesis Partnership**

Genesis of Ann Arbor is a partnership of more than 45 years between Temple Beth Emeth, Reformed Jewish Congregation and St. Clare's of Assisi Episcopal Church. Beginning in 1974, the two congregations, through the nonprofit corporation Genesis of Ann Arbor, have jointly owned and managed the property at 2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor Michigan. Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's have recognized that although the world has already been torn by distrust and suspicion, waste, prejudice and violence, we must learn to trust, conserve, believe, give and love if we are to survive as children of God.

Together, the congregations support the Back Door Food Pantry, located on the property which provides food for more than 100 local families each week. Our building is also home to Ann Arbor Children's Montessori and to Blue Ocean Faith.

## **Genesis Covenant**

Our vision for the Genesis partnership inspires us to be our best.

***By daily embracing mutual trust and respect,  
we partner with God and one another to heal a broken world.***

Our mission as partners here challenges us:

***To exemplify interfaith understanding, cooperation, and friendship,  
and to share space in ways that strengthen St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth and  
the broader community.***

Our Guiding Principles offer us practical wisdom:

***We recognize that for relationships to be strong, they must be cultivated.  
We seek opportunities to work for justice, to celebrate, to learn,  
and to deepen our understanding of one another.  
We teach our congregations about the Genesis partnership.***

We operate Genesis with integrity and fairness toward those who work for us, provide us with services, and use our facility. Congregational leaders serve as stewards of our respective goals, programs, and hopes, and of the interfaith integrity of the partnership.

***We honor each congregation's unique religious identity, traditions, and goals.***

We strive to cultivate a spirit of open communication and cooperation that is mutually beneficial and promotes one another's best interests. We seek to understand the effects of our decisions on others.

We strive to make decisions by consensus. We actively consult with those affected and experts, as needed, to make well-informed, well-considered decisions. We collaborate.

Genesis provides a welcoming and supportive environment for our congregants and the broader community, especially low- and no-revenue nonprofit groups.

***We share our spirit of understanding and respect for others  
by seeking opportunities to partner with those who differ from us.***

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*The Covenant was adopted by the Temple Beth Emeth Board, St. Clare's Vestry, & the Genesis Property Board, 2015.*

Murray Rosenthal, President, Genesis Board  
Linda Klimach, Senior Warden, St. Clare's  
Joe Pollak, President, Temple Beth Emeth

We invite you to join us.

Learn more on our website: [www.genesis2.org](http://www.genesis2.org).

