

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife.  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

*Words by Katharine Lee Bates,  
Melody by Samuel Ward*

## Interfaith Community Gathering: a time for reflection and prayer

Friday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, Inauguration Day 2017

Congregation Agudat Achim

268 Washington St., Leominster



Unity ♦ Love ♦ Respect ♦ Diversity  
Healing ♦ Hope ♦ Safety ♦ Connection

## **Gathering Music**

**"We Are"** written by Sweet Honey and the Rock

**Welcome**, Rabbi Stern-Kaufman

**Opening Prayer**, adapted from Thomas Merton, Rev. Alderman

**"Peace Medley"** Hebrew, Latin, Arabic

**Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Rev. Suchocki Brown

**Reflections on Love and Fear**, from Rev. Smith, Father O'Brien,  
Ms. Hadj-Zoubir, and Ms. Sarafconn

**Special Music** sung by Gethsemane Haitian Seventh Day Adventist  
Church Praise Team

**Golden Rule Readings** lead by Father Champlin, Mr. Mehmud,  
Chaplain Pimley, and others

**"Do Unto Others"** written by Sweet Honey and the Rock

**"Embracing the Divine Within"** lead by Father Bruso

**"America the Beautiful"** ~ Unison

**Responsive Reading** adapted from Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Rev. Bartlett

One: In a world defined by the message that it must be "us and them,"

All: *Let us have the courage of the prophets and speak out against injustices, so that we may lead with mercy and righteousness.*

One: In a world defined by hunger, homelessness, and poverty,

All: *Let us have the courage to model compassion, while we reach out to "the least of these," without fear and hesitancy.*

One: In a world defined by hateful speech and discriminatory acts,

All: *Let us have the courage to move out of the sanctuary, into the streets, and proclaim*

One: We believe in love, mercy, righteousness, dignity, and truth, and All are entitled to such things.

*Unison: It takes courage to speak out in times of crisis, pain, and anger. Yet, we believe in the spirit of love and hope who is with us, who moves through us, and who guides us. And, we know that all things are possible.*

**"The Priestly Blessing"** by members of our community



## **Participating in the service ~**

Rev. Dr. Keith Alderman, Pilgrim Congregational Church

Rev. Robin Bartlett, First Church in Sterling

Rev. Robert D. Bruso, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

Rev. Diego A. Buritica, St. Leo's Catholic Church

Rev. William E. Champlin, St. Leo's Catholic Church

Karima Hadj-Zoubir, The Islamic Center of Worcester

Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman, Congregation Agudat Achim

Bashir U. Mehmud, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Rev. Anthony J. Mpagi, Saint Boniface Catholic Church and  
Chaplain Fitchburg State University

Cathy Pimley, Chaplain, Health Alliance Hospital

Rev. Dennis J. O'Brien, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Rev. Carlos A. Ruiz, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Carol Sarafconn, Congregation Agudat Achim

Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith, Congregational Church of Christ,  
UCC

Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki-Brown, First Church of Leominster, UU

## **We are grateful to tonight's musicians ~**

Jay Hitt, Lisa Jane Lipkin, Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman, and  
The Praise Team of the Gethsemane Haitian Seventh Day  
Adventist Church

**Thank you to Elizabeth Orenstein for creating the bookmarks,**

**And special thanks for the gracious hospitality of the  
members of Congregation Agudat Achim.**



**In response to the proliferation of hate, divisiveness and  
fear of differences in our country and in our state,  
the Leominster Area Interfaith Clergy is committed to  
standing together at this pivotal moment in our country  
to demonstrate and communicate our  
shared values and ideals.**