

A THANKS - GIVING REFLECTION

~ *To Be Shared/Offered Near & Far* ~

“A House (*home/family/nation/world*) divided against itself

CAN NOT STAND.”

~ **DEAR FRIENDS, FELLOW CITIZENS** ~

Over the Thanks-Giving Tide, in the embrace of our families, kith and kin, may “We, the People” commit ourselves anew, ever and anew, to resist the temptation to allow ourselves to be divided and conquered by the “powers” that would be, noted in the accompanying.

*Might those who are **bad** actually be **mad**, for they are, in fact, **sad**, for they are, in truth, **scad**/scared. Fear, itself, being a cry for **love**?*

*May the People, We aspire to be true to the counsel that — can one say? — we ourselves, our Better Selves have offered others: “Remember to get all the facts.” “There’s always another side to the story.” “Strive for the larger picture” and “Don’t believe everything you read, are told” by the corporate/corporatized media.” **

In thanks giving may “We, the People” prepare together for the (attached) 2024-25 Global Holy-Nights’ Candlelight Vigil & Carol — prepare for:

~ **THE DAY OF THE RETURN OF THE LIGHT FROM ABOVE** ~

“With malice toward none,” Lincoln noted amidst a civil war, “with charity for all let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him [her/ALL] who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

**ONE NATION/WORLD, UNDER GOD / THE GO[O]D
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

*May “We, the People” Join Hands, Hearts & Minds
to Create, Together, a Future Worth Envisioning*

*For Our Children, Grandchildren, and for the Generations to Come:
ALL OUR RELATIONS*

Con-cord-e,

The Trustees & Friends/Concordium of The Center for American Studies at Concord, MA
For Many the Heart & Soul of Our Land, Ever New World: www.concord-ium.us



US Capitol with Columbia Atop, Gazing to the Raising Sun

E PLURIBUS UNUM / OUT OF MANY, ONE

The Sacred Seal of Our Land, The Aspiring Unites States of America

A-Meri-Ca / A(h)-Mary-Ca(sa)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTdvtkJi8Z8>

~

***WE, THE PEOPLE of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect union***

Preamble to the Constitution, Supreme Law of Our Land

**THE PEOPLE, WE, WILL NO LONGER ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE
DIVIDED & CONQUERED BY THE POWERS THAT WOULD BE**

“Forgive them Lord, they know not what they do.”

For they are not in their right and rightful minds.

~

~ A HOLY NIGHTS, CANDLE-LIGHT VIGIL & CAROL ~

From Sun-set to Sun-Rise, December 24, 2024 on through January 5, 2025

Concluding on Epiphany, Jan. 6th, "The Day of the Return of the Light from Above"

At the "Peace Monument"* at the foot of the US Capitol in Washington*, the District of Columbia*, *surrounded* by monuments/memorials devoted to war



&

Kindred candle-light vigils/carols will concurrently be held in state capitals and town centers across our nation and in capitals and town centers around our world

~ ~ ~

***We are as a city set upon the hill, in the open view of all the world,
because we profess ourselves to be a people in covenant with the Lord.***

God / the Go(o)d

Sister- & Brotherhood from Sea to Shining SeaS



RATHER LIGHT ONE SMALL CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS

(Either Democrat or Republican)

*“Let me now warn you in the most solemn manner against the **baneful** [exceedingly harmful and injurious] effects of the Spirit of Party.”*

“Farewell Address George Washington, the “Father of Our Nation” Sept. 19, 1796

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds”

Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address”

~

An Initiative of The Center for American Studies at Concord (MA’s)

New Ecumenism

<https://concord-ium.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/0-The-New-Ecumenism.pdf>

&

Citizens Movement to Revive the Spirit of Public Service:

www.citizensmovement.org

~ ~ ~



Inspired by the miraculous 1914 WWI Christmas Eve Truce/Truth between the Axis and Allied Forces*.... by the 2014-15 world premier of Iroquois folksinger Joanne Shenan-doah's Christmas song, "ONE WORLD".... and, 110 years after the historic WWI truce, inspired further by the Michaelmas, Sept. 29, 2024 "**Rescue Our Republic**" rally in our nation's capitol with its resounding appeal to the Archangel Michael

"WE, THE PEOPLE"

will gather, candles in hand, at sunset (4:51 pm EST) on December 24, 2024 at the Peace Monument, glimpsed above, at the foot of the US Capitol and in capitols and town centers around our nation and world. Note: Each location will proceed on the basis of *their* sunset and sunrise times.

Ashanti [Ennobled] Queen Mother Bernice Atchison*, the *Friends of the African Union's* Presiding Head, will offer the opening prayer and light the Inaugural Holy-Nights' Vigil Candle. The opening prayer and lighting is on behalf of the "**Soul of America**," of the 66,000 Black Farmers of Mother Earth, and in honor of her enslaved forbears, who built the US Capitol itself.

The flame will be passed onto international educator, Patricia Anne Davis*/Loving Peace-Maker, on behalf of her Choctaw-Dine nations and Native Peoples of Turtle Island. Loving Peace-Maker will offer up the opening two carols/songs, before passing the flame on to Teresa Romero* (tbc), President of the United Farm Workers, who is invited to offer a blessing for the Vigil.

Teresa would then pass on the flame of en-courage-ment to her "brother" Joseph Biden and his wife, Jill, the departing President and First Lady, who will spread the flame further to their fellow citizens gathered, candles in hand.

Through the initial sunset hour (beginning at 4:51 pm EST) of the 1st Holy Night Vigil, December 24 ~ as through those Holy-Night's sunset to sunrise hours to come ~ one and all, near and far, are invited to kindle together, with prayer and carol, the dawning flame.

That is: May “*We, the People*” resolve to be, to be-come part, an *integral* part, of the long-awaited solution — a truly **United States and Global Community** — as opposed to part and parcel of the ongoing problem: partisan politics, divisiveness, enflamed hate, not love of our neighbor.

Surely, the People, We, can do better.



At the end of the first hour (5:51 pm EST) and on behalf of the “Soul of Russia” and its PEOPLE — her newly appointed ambassador and wife are invited — candles in hand at the foot of Washington’s “Peace Monument” — to receive, in turn, the 1st Holy-Night flame from the Bidens and to pass the kindling light on to those attending for the second hour with candles in hand, accompanied in spirit by fellow citizens, millions *billions* of “points of light” around our nation and globe.

During the second hour, one and all are invited, with prayers and carols/song in Russian and English, to share the light among themselves, before passing the flame on at the conclusion of the second hour (at 6:51 PM EST) to the second ambassador — determined ahead of time.

On through the night the vigil will continue until sunrise (7:25 am EST), the dawning day, Christ-mas/Weih-nacht/the Night-of-Initiation.

The Holy-Nights Candle-Light Vigil will *pause* through the daylight hours of that first day of Christmas, December 25, and the accompanying 12 *days* of Christmas, to resume at sunset (4:52 PM EST) of the second Holy Night, Dec. 25. Ambassadors and citizens of the nations of the world, along with American friends, will re-kindle and pass on the gathering flame.

Safe-guarded by the Intercessor Mother of Mothers, “FULL OF GRACE,” the Candlelight Vigil & Carol will continue through the Holy-Nights, both in the US capitol and around our nation and world continue on into Epiphany, January 6th, 2025.



The Rising Sun behind the Chair in which Washington presided through the Constitutional Convention

On January 6th, “The Day of the Return of the Light from Above,” at 6:27 am EST, an hour before sunrise, the final flame in Columbia’s own District will be passed onto re-elected President Donald & Melania Trump.

*“America is great because America is **GOOD**,” Donald/Kamala.
“And if America ever ceases to be **GOOD**, she will cease to be great.”*

**Love your enemy.
Bless them who curse you.
Do good to them who persecute you.
Pray for them who spitefully use you and abuse you.**

Indeed, is there an alternative, friends, a truly *practical* alternative? That is, if we can’t love our enemy, do we not become the same, the very same?

“We have met the enemy, and they is us.”

*“In the fire of love,” Gandhi reminded us, “the hardest most stalwart opponent must melt. And if he melts not, the love is not hot enough. The only passion [suffering] that one must grace one’s opponent with is com-*passion*. For in com-*passion* awakens one’s own **GOOD**.”*

Dr. King goes on: *“Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that, **redemptive** love.”*

“Self dedication is a spiritual experience,” Cesar Chavez affirmed, “The end of all knowledge must be the building up of character. We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community.”

In the dawning hour on “The Day of the Return of the Light from Above,” January 6th, the Trumps will be invited to share the gathering flame with Amanda Gorman, and a younger “sister” of Amanda’s choice, as well as with Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congressman and presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, who’ve borne the impulse for The Department of Peace . . . To share the gathering flame and pass it further to those fellow citizens in attendance at the “Peace Monument” at the foot of the US Capitol, as well as in capitols and town centers around our world, our aspiring Global Community.

“The Light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us. Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.”

Concluding lines of *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau, Rev. 22:16. Inscribed by a native son of Concord, MA, as the Sun rises over Walden Pond, Nov. 2, 2024, All Soul’s Day.



OVER THE DAWNING THANKSGIVING TIDE

IN THE “EMBRACE” OF OUR FAMILIES & FRIENDS, KITH & KIN, MAY
“WE, THE PEOPLE” PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING HOLY NIGHTS’ VIGIL & CAROL.

*MAY WE UNITE OUR HEARTS, MINDS, AND WILL, GREAT GOOD WILL, TO CREATE,
TOGETHER, THAT FUTURE WORTH ENVISIONING FOR OUR CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME:*

ALL OUR RELATIONS.

ONE NATION, UNDER GOD / THE GOOD, INDIVISIBLE,

WITH LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

~ ~ ~

FOOTNOTES & BIOGRAPHIES FOLLOW

FOOTNOTES & BIOGRAPHIES

Mt.Vernon, Virginia

From George Washington to Benjamin Lincoln, 29 June 1788

My dear Sir,

I beg you will accept my thanks for the communications handed to me in your letter of the 3d instant

No one can rejoice more than I do at every step taken by the People of this great Country to preserve the Union—establish good order & government—and to render the Nation happy at home & respected abroad.

No Country upon Earth ever had it more in its power to attain these blessings than United America.

Wonderously strange then, & much to be regretted indeed would it be, were we to neglect the means, and to stray from the road to which the finger of Providence has so manifestly pointed.

I cannot believe it will ever come to pass! The great Author of all good has not conducted us so far on the Road to happiness and glory to withdraw from us, in the hour of need, his beneficent support.

By folly & misconduct (proceeding from a variety of causes) we may now & then get bewildered; but I hope, and trust, that there is good sense and virtue enough left to bring us back into the right way before we shall be entirely lost.

~ ~ ~

Concluding lines of the ode, “*To His Excellency General Washington,*” inscribed by the formerly enslaved negro poetess, Phillis Wheatley, the “Poet of Columbia,” offering Washington his much sought “marching orders”.

***“Proceed Great Chief with Virtue by thy side,
Thine every action let the Goddess guide.”***



Columbia, of Native American Bearing, Atop the Capitol

~ ~ ~

The Christmas Truce occurred on Christmas Eve, 1914 when, against orders, the soldiers of the Axis and Allied forces (not Republicans and Democrats) dropped their weapons, rose up out of their trenches, their blood, sweat and tears, and, on the darkest eve of the year, celebrated the birth of the light from within — as recounted in the “testament” *Silent Night*. To one another the soldiers sang the beloved carol:

*Silent night, holy night / Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
All is calm, all is bright / Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Round yon virgin, mother and child*

~ ~ ~

“If we can keep people focused, outraged and divided on social issues, they won’t see our steady and relentless accumulation of power, they won’t be able to raise our taxes, limit our monopolies, or touch our political contributions. And with our money, our media power, our judges [esquires] and politicians, we will do whatever we like.”

George Kinder’s reframing of former presidential advisor,
Steve Bannon’s Aug. 2017 statement in *The American Prospect*.

With respect to the mounting **divisions/divisiveness** (Trump on the one hand; Biden/Harris on the other), a question, friends: If you are among those who, as noted, have counseled others to remember to “get all the facts,” that there is “always another side to the story,” that we should strive for the “fuller picture” — if you’ve advised others “*not* to believe everything they read or are told” have you applied such common sense to your own political stance vis-a-vis Trump or Harris/Biden? If we may ask?

Before, that is, re-acting, re-actively, in a re-actionary way that, can one say, is seldom *pro-active* and, thereby, illuminating? Before passing judgment either way, have you paused for a moment or two to catch your breath and try to live into the candidate, the fellow human being you oppose? Indeed, can we behold any possible specks in the other’s eye, if we have a lumbering plank in our own . . . ?

Can you imagine, friends, fellow citizens, that something beyond our all so mortal judgements may be playing itself out . . . ? Or, if that thought is a stretch, can you envision the vexing vortex of forces that both candidates find themselves in the midst of? *Com-passion* means to *suffer-with* the other?

Can it be that the **fear** spoken of is, above all, a cry, fear-full appeal for **love**? “

“Forgive them, Lord.” Those we would otherwise judge. *“For they know not what they do.”*

For they are not in their right and rightful mind.

Words And more?

Can you imagine such a labor of love as the antidote to Lincoln’s dire prophesy of the downfall that otherwise stands before us: the Veritable Abyss?

“A house divided against itself can not stand.”

SURELY, WE THE PEOPLE CAN DO BETTER, TOGETHER.

~ ~ ~



Ashanti (Ennobled) Queen Mother Bernice Atchison
the Friends of the African Union's Senior Presiding Head.

Offspring of George Washington Carver, Bernice is an Alabama gardener, farmer, the widowed wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother of her family of blood, and protectress and servant of her larger family of spirit, including 66,000 Black Farmers of Mother Earth for whom she prevailed in an historic law suit against the US Department of Agriculture. After decades of trials and tribulations, justice has begun to be achieved.

Following the brutal murder of Bernice's mother's, the young 8 year old raised herself, subsisting on crumbs; taught herself to read from diner menus, worked *long* days in multiple jobs and went on to become Alabama's first Black Jury Commissioner, a woman no less.

Bernice's depths of wisdom and compassion led her to become the "Mother Confessor" of Alabama's stricken Governor George Wallace. The former "racist governor" — most *progressive* before he was drawn into the political arena — confided to Bernice what lay deepest on his heart. A woman of profound and abiding faith, Queen Mother's life and labors have been guided by the reminder:

DON'T BE BITTER; BE BETTER.



Patricia Anne Davis / Loving Peace Maker
Grandmother, International Educator

Patricia Anne Davis is an Indigenous elder of Choctaw and Dine’/Navajo lineage. She is a Whole Systems Designer, specializing in peace-making leadership who has worked as an Administrator in Health and Human Services for 20 years. She is an educator and consultant, who is initiated, trained, and experienced in facilitating her authentic “Indigenous Ceremonial Change Process” she designed for Wellness Restoration.

Message of Hope: I know from my Indigenous lens that we must reframe out of un-healthy male dominance and female submission into a healthy helping teamwork between the male protector and provider life-task and the female life-giver and nurturer life task. We must use co-creative power within to eliminate the need for power over through domestic violence in the home and lateral violence in the community of world governments.

hozho naasha - walking in beauty & living the loving way. Child of All Nations Indigenous Wisdom Institute; Facebook Page: "Indigenous Wisdom Institute"
<http://nativeamericanconcepts.wordpress.com>

“My hope for America is that love can be a currency for spiritual healing and abundance.”
Joseph Trinh:

~



To be confirmed. Teresa Romero is the first Latina and first immigrant woman to become president of a national union in the United States. Teresa replaced Arturo S. Rodriguez as the third president of United Farm Workers in December 2018. Formerly the union's No. 2 officer as secretary -treasurer, she has years of experience overseeing the complex operations of a far-flung organization involved in field organizing, contract bargaining and administration, legislative and legal advocacy, and far-reaching international initiatives.

Before joining the UFW, Teresa Romero managed a construction company and a law firm that helped workers with immigration and workers compensation claims. Teresa is proud of her U.S. citizenship and proud of her Mexican and Zapotecan heritage. Teresa is widely respected by her peers for her work ethic, calm competence, relationship building, and **Si Se Puede! spirit.**

Her leadership rose to new levels in the epic farm worker march from Delano to Sacramento in 2022. She took every step alongside farm workers marching 335 miles across dusty Central Valley in the searing August heat to win farm workers the right to a safer union election process.

~ ~ ~

Revelations 22:16

“I, Xristos, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the off-spring of David, and the bright and morning star.”

