

The Gathering presents:



MID-AUTUMN

Vespers

SEPTEMBER 28TH
7 PM PDT/10 PM EDT
ON ZOOM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



The Gathering

a space for Asian Pacific American Spirituality

THEGATHERINGEDLA.ORG

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Versicle

**“YOUR WORD
IS A LANTERN
FOR MY FEET,
A LIGHT ON
MY PATH.”**

Psalm 119:105



Confession of Sin

**LIFEGIVING GOD,
WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU,
BY OUR WILL,
AND BY HOW WE HAVE SAT STILL.
WE HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD STEWARDS OF MOTHER EARTH.
FORGIVE US, GREAT LIFEWEAVER,
FOR WE HAVE AWAKENED.**

**LIKE THE ENLIGHTENED CHRIST,
WHO WALKED WITH US
IN THIS MUD OF LIFE
TO SHOW US THE PATH TO DIVINITY,
HELP US TO WALK THAT PATH OF TRANSFORMATION,
TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF EARTH AND HER CREATURES,
TO SOW SEEDS OF PEACE WITH EACH STEP,
UNTIL EDEN IS A GARDEN ONCE MORE. AMEN.**



Confession of Sin

OFFICIANT:

ALMIGHTY GOD EMBRACE US, RECONNECT US TO MOTHER EARTH, STRENGTHEN US IN THE WHOLENESS OF OUR HUMANITY THROUGH OUR BROTHER JESUS CHRIST, AND BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT KEEP US IN ETERNAL LIFE. AMEN.



Psalm 8

**1 O LORD, OUR SOVEREIGN,
HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!
YOU HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS.**

**2 OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES AND INFANTS
YOU HAVE FOUNDED A BULWARK BECAUSE OF YOUR FOES,
TO SILENCE THE ENEMY AND THE AVENGER.**

**3 WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR HEAVENS, THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS,
THE MOON AND THE STARS THAT YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED;**

**4 WHAT ARE HUMANS THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF THEM,
MORTALS THAT YOU CARE FOR THEM?**

**5 YET YOU HAVE MADE THEM A LITTLE LOWER THAN GOD
AND CROWNED THEM WITH GLORY AND HONOR.**

**6 YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS UNDER THEIR FEET,**

**7 ALL SHEEP AND OXEN,
AND ALSO THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD,**

**8 THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND THE FISH OF THE SEA,
WHATEVER PASSES ALONG THE PATHS OF THE SEAS.**

**9 O LORD, OUR SOVEREIGN,
HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!**



Genesis 2:4-9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

IN THE DAY THAT THE LORD GOD MADE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVENS, WHEN NO PLANT OF THE FIELD WAS YET IN THE EARTH AND NO VEGETATION OF THE FIELD HAD YET SPRUNG UP—FOR THE LORD GOD HAD NOT CAUSED IT TO RAIN UPON THE EARTH, AND THERE WAS NO ONE TO TILL THE GROUND, BUT A STREAM WOULD RISE FROM THE EARTH AND WATER THE WHOLE FACE OF THE GROUND— THEN THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND AND BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE, AND THE MAN BECAME A LIVING BEING. AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN, IN THE EAST, AND THERE HE PUT THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED. OUT OF THE GROUND THE LORD GOD MADE TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT IS PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT AND GOOD FOR FOOD, THE TREE OF LIFE ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.



Acts 17:24-28

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.

THE GOD WHO MADE THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT, HE WHO IS LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, DOES NOT LIVE IN SHRINES MADE BY HUMAN HANDS, NOR IS HE SERVED BY HUMAN HANDS, AS THOUGH HE NEEDED ANYTHING, SINCE HE HIMSELF GIVES TO ALL MORTALS LIFE AND BREATH AND ALL THINGS. FROM ONE ANCESTOR HE MADE ALL PEOPLES TO INHABIT THE WHOLE EARTH, AND HE ALLOTTED THE TIMES OF THEIR EXISTENCE AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PLACES WHERE THEY WOULD LIVE, SO THAT THEY WOULD SEARCH FOR GOD AND PERHAPS FUMBLE ABOUT FOR HIM AND FIND HIM—THOUGH INDEED HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US. FOR 'IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING'.



Sermon

“THE ELIXIR OF DIVINITY”

Dustin Vuong Nguyen

2023 EPISCOPAL ECOJUSTICE FELLOW



Affirmation of Faith

**WE BELIEVE IN GOD, THE CREATOR ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
WEAVER AND BINDER OF LIFE,
GROUND OF INTERBEING.**

**WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR LIBERATOR.
SON OF GOD,
GOD MADE EARTHLING,
THAT WE MAY BECOME LIKE GOD.**

**WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT,
ANIMATING WIND OF GOD,
THROUGH WHOM WE ARE TRANSFORMED
AND TRANSFIGURED.**

**WE BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL
CALLED TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMMUNITY.**

**WE BELIEVE AND SO WE
PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS, NOW;
LOOSE THE BONDS OF INJUSTICE, NOW;
LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE, NOW;
IN GOD'S KIN-DOM HERE AND NOW.
AMEN.**



The Lord's Mid-Autumn Prayer

**HOLY GOD, WEAVER OF LIFE,
HALLOWED BE YOUR EARTH,
YOUR JUSTICE REIGN,
YOUR NAME BE PRAISED,
IN ALL OF CREATION.
GIVE US TONIGHT OUR BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.
SHARE WITH US YOUR ABUNDANCE,
AS WE SHARE WITH THOSE WHO LACK.
HOLD US IN THE PRESENT MOMENT,
AND DELIVER US TO ETERNITY.
FOR THE MOON, THE STARS,
ARE YOURS AND OURS,
NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.**



Subrages

**THAT WE MAY TRANSFORM OURSELVES
AND SO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.
GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**THAT WE MAY BREAK THE CYCLE
OF SUFFERING.
GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**THAT WE MAY NOT GIVE IN TO PESSIMISM
AND FATALISM.
GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**THAT, WITH FAITH AND ELBOW GREASE,
WE MAY BEND THE ARC OF THE UNIVERSE
TOWARDS JUSTICE.
GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**



Collect

**ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO CHOREOGRAPHS
THE DANCE OF CELESTIAL BODIES:
DIRECT OUR LIVES TO ORBIT AROUND
COMPASSION, JUSTICE, AND PEACE,
SO THAT YOUR KIN-DOM ON EARTH
MAY BE RADIANT AS THE SUN AT HIGH
NOON AND BRILLIANT AS THE MOON
AT ITS ZENITH. THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST, OUR NORTH STAR. AMEN.**



TURNING TO THE TATHAGATA

by *Thich Nhat Hanh*

**MAY OUR HEART'S GARDEN OF AWAKENING
BLOOM WITH HUNDREDS OF FLOWERS.**

**MAY WE BRING THE FEELINGS OF PEACE AND JOY INTO
EVERY HOUSEHOLD.**

**MAY WE PLANT WHOLESOME SEEDS ON TEN THOUSAND
PATHS.**

**MAY WE NEVER ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE SUFFERING OF
THE WORLD,**

ALWAYS BEING PRESENT WHEN BEINGS NEED OUR HELP.

**MAY MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS BE OUR WITNESS IN THIS
MOMENT**

**AS WE BOW OUR HEADS AND REQUEST THE LORD OF
COMPASSION**

TO EMBRACE US ALL.

LET US GO TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD!

PRAISE BE TO GOD!





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