

Smith
Grade 6
Honorable Mention

Hoffnung
Hoop
Speranza
望

Esper
Espérer
Hope
Kibou
Esperanza

आशा
Asha
Omid

Надежда
Nag-asa



Hope for Children !!

Hanna
Grade 8
First Place Winner

Put down the guns and hurtful swords
Stop the slurs and painful words
Live in peace with all the world
Hope for every boy and girl
Help each other near and far
Keep each other safe from harm
Hope for each race and ethnicity
and each and every little country
No more fighting, no more wars
This is what hope is for.

Kelli

Grade 8

Second Place Winner



Anthony

Grade 8

Third Place Winner

A Message from the Mayor

I, along with my fellow Council Members and city staff, thank you for your prayers, your kindness and your support. Your prayers and kindness certainly help in the running of the city. Your support is greatly appreciated by all of us.

This year's theme for the Prayer Breakfast is "New Hope for Our Children." I believe that our children are our greatest asset and should be treated as such. We know that child development is a foundation for community and economic development. Capable children grow to become the foundation of a prosperous and sustainable society. We need to accept the responsibility of providing opportunities for our children to grow into capable, productive adults.

The interaction children have with the adults in their lives at home, at school and in the community become part of their intricate brain development. As a society, it is our responsibility to make this interaction positive, supportive and encouraging. We all have time to compliment a child, encourage productive behavior and demonstrate a positive role model. I subscribe to the quote "It takes a village to raise a child." The village of New Hope can have a very positive impact on our children.

Please take the opportunity today to do a small kindness for a child...the kind of thing you would like to have someone do for you. You'll be surprised at the wonderful payback, both for yourself and for the child. Imagine, if everyone did that, what a wonderful world it would be.

Thank you all for coming and for your continued support. Together we can make this a more peaceful place to raise our families, nurture our children, and care for our city.

Mayor Kathi Hemken

Opening

7:00 Continental Breakfast

Gathering Music Cooper High School Chamber Strings

7:30 Presentation of the Flag West Metro Honor Guard

National Anthem Armstrong High School Chamber Singers

Welcome Mayor Kathi Hemken
Dr. Aldo Sicoli, District 281 Superintendent

The United Nations has declared that every child in this world should have certain rights:

- "The right to affection, love and understanding.
- The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.
- The right to free education.
- The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.
- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to special care, if handicapped.
- The right to be among the first to receive relief in time of disaster.
- The right to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.
- The right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood.
- The right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin."



A Time to Reflect

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Prayer | | Rev. Mark Vinge |
| Reflection | <i>The Wonder of a Child</i> | |
| Prayer | | Mr. Vishal Agarwal |
| Musical Reflection | <i>Regem naturm</i> | |
| | Armstrong Chamber Singers | |

Communal Reflection Sister Shirley Nohner

The birth of a child is a moment filled with wonder and amazement. It evokes a spontaneous celebration of life for the child and at the same time connects that new life with the miracle of every life and God's ingenious design. Our attention and love for our own children is the touchstone to the love and concern that is found in every home, in every country and among every community of faith. The gift of life and the treasure of our children have the power to be our strongest bond moving us past all borders and any barrier.

A Time of Lament

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Prayer | | Rev. Jill Bergman |
| Reflection | <i>Teaching Tolerance</i> | Rev. Jim Cook |
| Prayer | | |
| Musical Reflection | <i>Laudate Dominum</i> | |
| | All District Choir | |

Communal Reflection Rev. David Folkerts

We celebrate that all children are created equal. We lament that all children are not treated equally. That any child should feel uneasy or be threatened because of color, weight, sexual orientation, religion or religious dress, physical or mental challenge is a major concern of us all. We choose to be a community filled with tolerance and love, and we pledge ourselves to bring "New Hope to Our Children." Let no incident of intolerance go unchallenged. Let no child feel unloved. All children are created equal, and equally they shall be included and loved.

A Time of Commitment

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Prayer | | Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf |
| Reflection | <i>It Takes a Village</i> | |
| Prayer | | Rev. Richard Buller |
| Musical Reflection | <i>Peace Canon</i> | |
| | All District Choir | |

Communal Reflection Rev. Lisa White-Smith

One: Why should we care about other people's kids?

All: Because it takes all of us to create strong communities that support strong families and nurture strong children.

So today we:

Commit ourselves to offer assurance
through a smile or a positive comment.

Promise to show empathy,
as we imagine ourselves in the other person's shoes.

Vow to offer words of encouragement,
to say something positive to children.

A Time of Blessing

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Prayer | | Father Terry Rassmussen |
| Reflection | <i>Run, Patty, Run</i> | |
| Prayer | | Rabbi Jennifer Gertman |
| Musical Reflection | <i>Just a Closer Walk With Thee</i> | |
| | Anna Kruskop, Cooper High School sophomore | |

Communal Reflection Rev. T. Michael Rock

We have new hope for our community and nation:

We will not be overcome by prejudice, suspicion, and self-concern.

We will open our eyes to the dignity and worth of every child.

And recover our vision of a just and compassionate society.

We will teach children by word and example

That there is a place for all of us around God's table.

Retiring the Colors
Mayoral Charge to the Community

I celebrate children

Who laugh out loud
 Who walk in the mud and dawdle in the puddles
 Who put chocolate fingers anywhere
 Who like to be tickled
 Who scribble in church
 Who whisper in loud voices
 Who sing in louder voices
 Who run—and laugh when they fall
 Who cry at the top of their lungs
 Who cover themselves with Band-Aids
 Who squeeze the toothpaste all over the bathroom
 Who slurp their soup
 Who chew cough drops
 Who ask questions
 Who give us sticky, paste-covered creations
 Who want their pictures taken
 Who don't use their napkins
 Who bury their goldfish, sleep with the dog,
 scream at their best friends
 Who hug us in a hurry and rush outside without their hats.

I celebrate children who are so busy living they don't have time
 for our hang-ups.

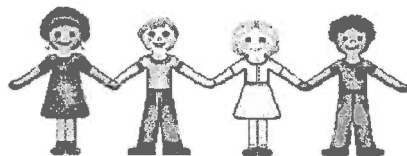
—Ann Weems

The child is God's gift to the family. Each child is created in the special
 image and likeness of God for greater things; to love and to be loved.

—Mother Teresa

Luchi Blanco from Cuzco, Peru, has said:

“Nor clothes, nor language, nor color, nor nation can change the
 soul of the child; in kissing, in crying, and in song the children of the
 world are one.”



These words were spoken when UNICEF (the United Nations Children's
 Fund) received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965:

“Feeling is growing everywhere... that we are in reality one family
 in the world... to create a peaceful world, we must begin with the
 children.”

Gabriela Mistral, Nobel prize-winning poet from Chile, has written:

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime
 is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of
 the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time
 his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses
 are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow.’ His
 name is ‘Today.’”

Be Yourself

The world would like to change you;
 There are pressures all around,
 You must decide just who you are,
 Then firmly hold your ground.

You know what you are good at,
 And you know where talents lie;
 But if you're ruled by others,
 Your uniqueness could pass by.

Remember, there is much to learn,
 All new things aren't good,
 Wisdom lies in what you've learned
 And what you have withstood.

So be yourself and don't allow
 The world to take control,
 Preserving your identity
 Is life's most precious goal.

-by Bruce B. Wilmer

Litany of Pain and Purpose

Our children today know too many burdens:

- The burden of too little food,
- Too much poverty
- Too little education
- Too much violence
- Too little hope
- Too much despair

We gather here to ease the burdens and lift up the next generation:

- To ease hunger and improve nutrition
- To increase family incomes and strengthen supports
- To raise reading levels and improve the schools
- To increase the peace
- To raise children's hopes and
- To lift their spirits.

We gather here that we may be a blessing now and in the days to come as we seek together to lift up the next generation:

- To pray
- To learn
- To listen
- To talk
- To mentor
- To teach
- To comfort
- To advocate

May it be so.

Minnesota is home to 1.2 million children between the ages of 0-18, but far too many of them aren't experiencing "Minnesota Nice."

- An estimated 152,000 of our children live in poverty.
- 87,000 lack health insurance coverage.
- 68% of children under the age of six have one or both parents in the workplace, yet 54,000 of those children still live in families whose annual incomes don't cover all their basic needs.

These statistics defy what the prophets and sacred texts of the great faith traditions teach about justice, compassion, and caring for children.

Although the United States is the most advanced in the world industrially, scientifically, and militarily, among other things, statistics on children are not encouraging. A great percentage of American children are left in poverty, in harmful environments, and without adequate nourishment, health care, or education. To illustrate:

In Poverty:

- Every 33 seconds a child is born into poverty.
- Today, there are 1.7 million more children living in poverty than there were in 2000, an increase of 15%.
- Children under the age of five remain more likely to be poor than older children.
- Every year that 13 million children live in poverty cost the nation \$500 billion in lost productivity.

In Health Care:

- There are nine million uninsured children in America.
- Every day more than 2,200 children are born without health insurance.
- Every two minutes a baby is born at low birthweight.

In Education:

- Every 10 seconds during the school year a student drops out.
- Only 14% of Black, 17% of Latino, and 42% of White 4th graders are reading at grade level.
- States spend on average almost three times as much per prisoner (\$22,650) as per public school student.

In Harmful Environments:

- Every 35 seconds a child is confirmed abused or neglected.
- Every three hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm.
- In 2007 the US inmate population of more than 2,300,000 exceeded China's, whose general population is more than four times as large.
- On any given night 200,000 children are homeless.



We Cannot Merely Pray to You

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
So that all of us must find our own path to peace,
Within ourselves and with our neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end hunger;
For you have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world,
if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God,
To root out our prejudice;
For you have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all people,
If we would only use them rightly.

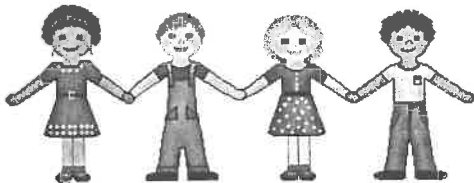
We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope,
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us great minds
With which to search out cures and healing,
If we could only use them constructively.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and courage,
To do instead of just to pray,
To become instead of merely to wish.

Praised are You, O God,
You bless our people...
And all peoples, with peace.

—Rabbi Jack Riemer



A mother, even at the risk of her own life, protects her child, her only child. In the same way should you cultivate love without measure toward all beings. You should cultivate toward the whole world—above, below, around—a heart of love unstinted, unmixed with any sense of differing or opposing interests. You should maintain this mindfulness all the time you are awake. Such a state of heart is the best in the world.

From *The Buddha Speaks*, edited by Anne Bancroft

Loving life and its mysterious source
With all our heart and all our spirit,
All our sense and strength,
We take upon ourselves and into ourselves
these promises:
to care for the earth
and those who live upon it,
to pursue justice and peace,
to love kindness and compassion.
We will teach this to our children
Throughout the passage of the day—
As we dwell in our homes
And as we go on our journeys,
From the time we rise until we fall asleep.
And may our actions be faithful to our words
That our children's children
May live to know:
Truth and kindness have embraced,
Peace and justice have kissed
And are one.

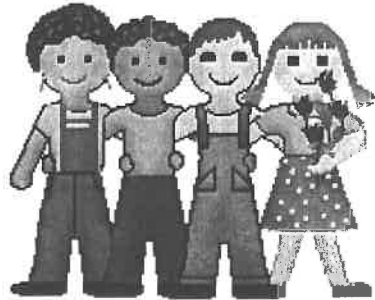
—Mishnah T'filah



As we reach out to bless the children in our midst, let us also reach out with our hearts to bless the children we cannot see and do not know but whom the Eternal knows and loves, as they wait and long for care, protection, and guidance.

May you live to see your world fulfilled,
 May your destiny be for worlds still to come,
 And may you trust in generations past and yet to be.
 May your heart be filled with intuition
 And may your words be filled with insights.
 May songs of praise ever be on your tongue,
 And may your wisdom be on a straight path before you.
 May your eyes shine with the light of holy words
 And your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.
 May your lips ever speak wisdom
 And your fulfillment be in righteousness even as you yearn
 To hear the words of the Holy Ancient One of Old.

(Berachot 17a)



On Children

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.

And he said: Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with his might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness; for even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

—Kahlil Gibran

“O my son!” (said Luqman), “If there be (but) the weight of a mustard-seed and it were (hidden) in a rock, or (anywhere) in the heavens or on earth, Allah will bring it forth: for Allah understands the finest mysteries, (and) is well-acquainted (with them).

“O my son! Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong: and bear with patient constancy whatever be-tide thee; for this is firmness (of purpose) in (the conduct of) af-fairs.

“And swell not thy cheek (for pride) at men, nor walk in insolence through the earth; for Allah loveth not any arrogant boaster.

—Chapter 31, vs 16-18, Ysuf Ali Qur'an Translation

Spiritual Leaders

| | |
|--|---|
| Mr. Vishal Agarwal 763/425-9449 vishalsagarwal@yahoo.com | Hindu Temple of Minnesota hindumandirminn.org |
| Rev. Jill Bergman 763/537-3653 jbergman@stjamesincrystal.org | St. James Lutheran Church stjamesincrystal.org |
| Rev. Richard Buller 763/588-0831 richard.buller@valleychurch.net | Valley Community Presbyterian Church valleychurch.net |
| Rev. James Cook 763/535-5941 jecook65@msn.com | Valley Community Presbyterian Church valleychurch.net |
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| Rev. David Folkerts 763/537-4576 dfolkerts@firstloc.org | First Lutheran Church of Crystal firstloc.org |
| Sister Shirley Nohner 763/531-5400 | St. Therese Nursing Home sttheresemn.org |
| Father Terry Rassmussen 763/544-3352 trassmussen@stjosephparish.com | St. Joseph Parish Community stjosephparish.com |
| Rev. T. Michael Rock 763/537-6965 office@robbinsdaleucc.org | Robbinsdale United Church of Christ robbinsdaleucc.org |
| Rev. Mark Vinge 763/533-3341 mvinge@hohlc.org | House of Hope Lutheran Church hohlc.org |
| Rev. Lisa White-Smith 763/559-3144 adminepiphany@msn.com | Church of the Epiphany epiphany-episcopole.org |
| Rabbi Jennifer Gertman 612/374-0315 jgertman@templeisrael.com | Temple Israel templeisrael.com |

The New Hope Community Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be replayed on cable TV Channel 19 at the following times:

Nov. 3—4:00 pm Nov. 7—10:00 am
Nov. 6—6:00 pm also at www.ci.new-hope.mn.us

Prayer Breakfast Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. Richard Buller | Jan Kocur |
| Naomi Chambers-Taylor | Kirk McDonald |
| John Elder, Council Member | LeeAnn Mortensen |
| Melodie Hanson | Karen Nolte |
| Imam Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf | Lynne Osterman |
| Kathi Hemken, Mayor | Father Terry Rassmussen |
| Imam Juman | Pam Sylvester |
| Jennifer Kish | Rev. Mark Vinge |

Thank you to the following groups for providing the beautiful music and art for this morning's program:

- **Cooper High School Chamber Strings directed by Lucas Shogren.**
- **All District Choir directed by Patti Arntz.**
- **Armstrong High School Chamber Singers directed by Stephanie Trump.**
- **Plymouth Middle School artists for participating in the New Hope for Children art contest.**

Children and Youth Agencies

Annex Teen Clinic
5810 42nd Ave No
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
763/533-1316
Annexteenclinic.org

Greater Mpls Crisis Nursery
5400 Glendale Ave
Golden Valley, MN 55422
763/591-0100
crisisnursery.org

Discover U Programs for Youth
Winnetka Learning Center
7940 55th Ave No, New Hope 55428
763/504-6990
Sandra Bengtson, Director

New Hope Treehouse
4203 Boone Ave No
New Hope, MN 55428
763/533-8308
treehouseyouth.org



Katie

Grade 6

Honorable Mention



Kaylyn

Grade 6

Honorable Mention