

The Fifth Night of Kwanzaa December 30, 2019

Pastor: We begin in the Name of the One God, Eternal Love, Creator of all, and of The Only Begotten Son Christ Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

Leader 1: Bless us, O God, as we come together to give you thanks and praise. Tonight we are pleased and grateful to continue our celebration of Kwanzaa. This is the fifth night of our celebration and our theme tonight is Nia (NEE-ah) which is Swahili for Purpose. We dedicate these short worship services to you as we explore and embrace the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Veronica Floyd: (words of introduction for the fifth principle.)

Leader 1: Each night we will look into Scriptures for some guidance on how to apply the principle to our lives.

In this reading we have the purpose driven Christian life explained for us with the highest purpose being to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ.”

Our reading tonight is Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And ***whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ.***

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Jesus said: Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. God will honor the one who serves me. (John 12:26). Joshua the Prophet said: Be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to God, to keep God's commandments, to hold to God and to serve God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Joshua 22:5)

Discussion follows.

Veronica Floyd: Closing prayer: O, Loving and Life-giving Good and Gracious God, we call and relay the fifth principle of Kwanzaa: NIA, which means purpose. We exist for the purposes of worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship, and discipleship. Ecclesiastes 12:13b (KJV) says, Fear God, and keep God's commandments: for this is the whole duty of humanity.

ALL: NIA! We will keep God's commandments! This is our purpose. We will love God and our neighbor as ourselves; this is our purpose. We will live as a beacon to the world; we will live as those who give light to the world; and as salt that gives flavor to the world. This is our purpose. Nia!

Pastor: May Almighty God Bless us in the Name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

Pastor: We go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

(** The closing prayers and responses for each Kwanzaa event are based on information found on this web site: http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/PDF/Kwanzaa_WR_Dec2808.pdf **)

=====**Further Reading and Information**=====

There are many symbols of Kwanzaa. The Kwanzaa candelabra is called a kinara. The straw mat that the kinara is placed on is a mkeka. Ears of corn are also placed on the mat, one to represent each child in the household. They are called the vibunzi (or muhindi). A fruit basket is placed on the mkeka, and is called the mazao. The unity cup is also placed on the mkeka, and is called the kikombe cha umoja. The seven candles that are placed in the kinara are called the Mishumaa Saba. Finally, all the gifts are called the zawadi and are traditionally given on Imani - the last day of Kwanzaa."

These are the seven principles of Kwanzaa:

First Night	Umoja (oo-MO-jah)	Unity
Second Night	Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah)	Self Determination
Third Night	Ujima (oo-JEE-mah)	Collective Work and Responsibility
Fourth Night	Ujamaa (oo-jah-Mah-ah)	Cooperative Economics
Fifth Night	Nia (NEE-ah)	Purpose
Sixth Night	Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah)	Creativity
Seventh Night	Imani (ee-MAN-nee)	Faith