

The Third Night of Kwanzaa December 28, 2020

Pastor: We begin in the Name of the One, 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 third night of our celebration and our theme tonight is Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) which is Swahili for Collective Work and Responsibility. 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 third principle.)

Leader 1: Each night we will look into Scriptures for some guidance on how to apply the principle to our lives. Our reading tonight is 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27 Before this Scripture is presented it is necessary to clarify the use of the word “member” or “members.” In Scripture, this word is used in the sense of the medical profession. A member of a body is a body part or an organ. The heart is a member of the body; the stomach is a member part of the body, for example. This term does imply we are members of the Body of Christ, yes we are all parts of Christ, it does not mean church membership.

Leader 2: Now our reading:

Unity and Diversity in One Body

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our un-presentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader 3: Please light the first candle the black candle for Unity, Umoja (oo-MO-jah). Light the second candle, the outside red for Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah) Self Determination. Now we add the third candle the outside green for Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) Collective Work and Responsibility.

Veronica Floyd: Closing prayer: O, Loving and Life-giving Good and Gracious God, as we call and relay the third principle of Kwanzaa: UJIMA, the principle of collective

work and responsibility, grant us the wisdom to develop and maintain collective interests. Teach us how to think collectively and build collectively the family unit and our neighborhoods and to truly be our brother's and sister's keeper as You are the Keeper of our souls.

ALL: UJIMA! We will strive to embody a spirit of collective work and responsibility, building and maintaining our communities as did our ancestors. Ujima!

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

ALL: Amen.

(** 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 candleabra 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