

The Fourth Night of Kwanzaa December 29, 2022

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: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. I will be giving the opening prayer. Please pray this prayer silently as I say it aloud. 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 fourth night of our celebration and our theme tonight is Ujamaa (oo-jah-Mah-ah) which is Swahili for Cooperative Economics. We dedicate these short worship services to you as we explore and embrace the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Veronica Floyd: Good evening. My name is Veronica Floyd, and I am speaking to you from the City of Johns Creek in the State of Georgia. I will be sharing with you some words of introduction for the fourth 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 in the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 9, verses 6 through 15.

Leader 2: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. The reading tonight is a paraphrase of the literal Word put together by Pastor Benedict to help us understand the depths of the meaning of these verses as we hear them. Here is the reading of Scripture.

The Cheerful Giver, the one who invests liberally and joyfully.

⁶But this I say: Those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, and those who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each person give and invest as they purpose in their heart, not grudgingly or of a sense of obligation; for God loves a cheerful giver. God loves the person who totally activates their “yes” to God’s will. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, will always have everything you need, all sufficiency in all things. God promises an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“God has dispersed abroad, God has given God’s self to every place and every person. God has given to the poor; God gives to those whom others do not qualify or respect. The righteousness of God endures forever.” In other words,

God started this, God is doing this, and God will bring it all to conclusion in God.
(see Psalm 112:9)

¹⁰ Therefore, may God who supplies abundant seed to the sower, an abundance of seeds for farmers, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown, the investments you have made, the gifts you have given. Further, may God increase the fruits, the results, the benefits, of your righteousness, of your kindness and good will. ¹¹ In fact this will mean you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, and this will cause you to give thanks and praise to God, even through the Church. ¹² For the administration of this service, of your giving and investing, not only supplies the needs of the saints – the members of the church, but this kind of giving and investing also blesses others who are not in the church. In fact, being generous with our investing and giving even blesses people we may never meet, and then they give thanks and praise to God too. ¹³ All of this is the proof of this ministry, that people glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all people everywhere. ¹⁴ It all comes back around by their prayers for you, and sometimes they might even come to seek you out because they see the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for the design of giving and investing that continues on as an indescribable gift! We make a resolve together to be joyful investors in the gifts of God for God's people everywhere.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader 3: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. We will now light the candles on the kinara. 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. Light the third candle the outside green for Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) Collective Work and Responsibility. Now we add the fourth candle the second red candle Ujamaa (oo-jah-Mah-ah) Cooperative Economics.

Pastor: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13)

Veronica Floyd: Closing prayer: O, Loving and Life-giving Good and Gracious God, as we call and relay the fourth principle of Kwanzaa: UJAMAA, the principle of cooperative economics, grant us the wisdom to have the tenacity to build and maintain businesses within our communities. Teach us how to think and build cost-effective businesses that will be profitable for both the owner and the consumer. Inspire us to give support, help, and investment to others as they endeavour to grow economically too. Teach us to be mainly savers, not reckless consumers.

ALL: UJAMAA! God has provided for us. We will be good and faithful stewards over all that God has provided. Together we will build and profit with God's blessing. Ujamaa!

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:

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