

The Third Night of Kwanzaa December 28, 2022

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 Thessalonians 5:12 – 18. This is The Message translation of the Bible.

And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love! Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out. Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. (page 433 "The

Message The New Testament In Contemporary English" Eugene H. Peterson. NavPress Publishing Group ©

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.

Discussion: Veronica Floyd will chair the discussion.

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](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 Determination	Kujichagulia)(koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah)	Self
Third Night Responsibility	Ujima (oo-JEE-mah)	Collective Work and
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