

The Fourth Night of Kwanzaa December 29, 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 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: (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 Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 6:25-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not ^[e]arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

AND Matthew 25:31- 46

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Pastor: Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar; give to God what is God’s. (Matthew 22:21) We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13)

Discussion follows.

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 consumer. 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 you have provided. Together we will build and profit. 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:

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