

The Sixth Night of Kwanzaa December 31, 2018

**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 sixth night of our celebration and our theme tonight is Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) which is Swahili for Creativity. 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 sixth 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 Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the eternal sanctuary;

Praise God in the eternal universe;

Praise God for all of the creative acts that continue every minute;

Praise God for the excellent greatness of God;

Praise God with the sound of trumpets;

Praise God with the lute, the guitar, the harp!

Praise God with the drums and with dancing!

Praise God with every stringed instrument and all the woodwinds!

Praise God the entire orchestra of every living sound of Music!

Praise Go with the loud clashing of cymbals and with the ting of finger cymbals!

Let everything that lives and that breathes give eternal praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**Pastor:** Ephesians 5:18 - 21 <sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual

songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of God.

What this and so many other verses tell me is God has planned for us to be creative people. God planned for us to write prayers, psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, new melodies, and adding all that Psalm 150 gives us we add, new dance, new celebrations.

All of Psalm 96 takes this up but especially verses 1-3:

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless His name;  
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.  
<sup>3</sup> Declare His glory among the nations,  
His wonders among all peoples.

In Psalm 98 we have all of nature joining in the praise:

**98** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
For He has done marvelous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known His salvation;  
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.  
<sup>3</sup> He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
<sup>4</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;  
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.  
<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
With the harp and the sound of a psalm,  
<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of a horn;  
Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell in it;  
<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap *their* hands;  
Let the hills be joyful together  
<sup>9</sup> before the LORD,  
For He is coming to judge the earth.  
With righteousness He shall judge the world,  
And the peoples with equity.

God gives us creativity, the creativity to invent new technologies, the creativity to do scientific research, the creativity to build beautiful buildings, create parks, and so much more. When we participate in creativity we are putting God's holy presence inside of us out there for expression because God is always creating.

**Discussion follows.**

**Veronica Floyd:** Closing prayer: O, Loving and Life-giving Good and Gracious God, your constant creativity is unsurpassed! We call and relay the sixth principle of Kwanzaa: KUUMBA: creativity. Help us to continue to share our creativity with the world through music, painting, food, dance, worship, architecture, scientific research, all the healing gifts, all the medical sciences, every study of all the gifts you give us in this Universe, and all endeavors in which we engage. We honor the creativity of all your people of every ethnicity, every ethnic story from every time and every place. Inspire us to reach out to every story of all of your people.

**ALL: KUUMBA! We acknowledge the creative genius of God that is provided for all creation to enjoy. Allow us to keep our minds and hearts open so that You, our loving and life giving God can create what the world needs through us. Kuumba!**

**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 and in love, 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](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