

30th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Walking in the Light



A Hindu prayer about God as a source of Light, from *Thiru Manthiram*, the tenth *Thiru Murai* written by Saint *Thiru Mular* (8th Century CE).

Trinity United Methodist Church
Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 7 PM

*BCE = Before Common Era is used in place of BC.
*CE= Common Era is used instead of AD.

I am Hindu practitioner and a scientist.



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Thank you for asking me to speak at the 30th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. I am a Hindu practitioner and a scientist and I am not a priest and speak to you as an ordinary person.

Despite coming from different faiths we all are here to praise God and thankful to Him for giving us, our families, and our country His blessings.

So I begin by quoting the Hindu monk Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) during his address to the **Parliament of World Religions** held on 11th September, 1893 in Chicago, IL. The quote is appropriate even after 119 years.

As the different streams having their sources in different places, all mingle their waters in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which men take, through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee!

Today we have gathered here to celebrate God's grace and in particular talk about "Walking in His Light". So I choose to read some Holy Verses from [Thiru Manthiram](#) written in [Tamil](#) by Saint *Thiru Mular*. It is one of the twelve *Thiru Murais*, the 12 compendium of sacred poems in praise of God Shiva and written by many male and female saints with earliest recorded in 6th through 12th century CE.

These verses describe God who is Light himself and how one realizes God and follow Him. I will read the verses in Tamil and then read their meaning in English.

2683: விளங்கொளி அங்கி விரிகதிர் சோமன்
துளங்கொளி பெற்றன சோதி யருள
வளங்கொளி பெற்றதே பேரொளி வேறு
களங்கொளி செய்து கலந்து நின்றானே.

The Light Within is the Source of All Light
The luminaries like Fire, Sun, and Moon
Their luminousness received by Grace of Divine Light;
The Light that gave that Light
It's a Mighty Light of radiant splendor immense
That Light dispelling my darkness,
In me stood into oneness suffused.

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2684: இளங்கொளி ஈசன் பிறப்பொன்றும் இல்லி
துளங்கொளி ஞாயிறும் திங்களும் கண்கள்
வளங்கொளி அங்கியும் மற்றைக்கண் நெற்றி
விளங்கொளி செய்கின்ற மெய்காய மாமே.

The Lord's Form is Light
The Lord is the radiant splendor of Light,
Birth He has none;
The luminous Sun and Moon are His eyes;
The lustrous fire is His Fore-Head Eye;
Thus is His shining brilliant form of dazzling Light.

2688: விளங்கொளி அவ்வொளி அவ்விருள் மன்னும்
துளங்கொளி யான்தொழு வார்க்கும் ஒளியான்
Divine Light Devours my Soul's Darkness
Luminous is that Light;
It is Light that devours Soul's darkness;
It is Light of those who adore Him in knowledge Light;

Oh God allow me to realize it. Allow me to adore you and follow you
by removing my soul's darkness. Allow me to Walk in your Light!

Thank you.