

“Peace Sunday”

Imam Abdurrahman Sykes of ISLAM Inc.

UCC at The Villages, FL

December 7th, 2014

The United Church of Christ at The Villages, Sunday, December 7, 2014

Call to Worship: Adhan (after lighting of candles and Sheldon's introit)

Allah is the greatest 4 times

I declare that there is no God but Allah 2 times

I declare that Mohammed is his messenger 2 times

Hasten to prayer 2 times

Hasten to success 2 times

Allah is the greatest 2 times

there is no God except Allah.

(Lighting of the Advent candle)

Hymn "O God of love, O God of Peace"

Invocation in unison

Words of Pardon in Confession: Surah al’Ahzaab 33:35, "And the men and the women who remember Allah much with their hearts and tongues. Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward"

Sing Gloria Patri: remain standing

Khutbah al Khajah: Arabic and English

[In]al-hamdu Lillaahi [nahmaduhu wa] nasta'eenahu wa nastaghfiruhu, wa na'oodhu billaahi min shuroori anfusinaa [wa min sayi'aati a'maalinaa]. Man yahdih Illaahu falaa mudilla lahu wa man yudlil falaa haadiya lahu. Wa ashhadu an laa ilaaha ill-Allaah [wahdahu la sharika lahu] wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluhu.

[Verily] all praise is for Allah, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own souls. Whomsoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whomsoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

Passing the Peace

Anthem

Jewish Torah lesson and message

Islamic Qur'an lesson and message:

Perhaps the most important issue I can address on this Peace Sunday in the midst of what ISIS is doing and the "War on Terror," is what Islam really teaches about peace, co-existence, and the sanctity of life.

Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "A Muslim is one in whom you are safe from his tongue and hands, a believer is one in whom you can entrust your life and your property."

According to the prophet's definition, it is clear that any terrorists are not Muslims.

The Quran enjoins diversity of religions and paves the way for interaction with all "human" beings.

From the Islam paradigm, humans are dignified and life is sacred.

In Chapter 2:213, of the Qur'an we see that in the beginning "Mankind **was one** single nation or community."

Everyone here today evolved from Adam and Eve.

But at some time, people decided not to co-exist.

The Quran says in Chapter 49:13, "O people, we have created you from a single male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that you might come to know one another. The noblest of you before Allah is the most righteous of you."

I want you to know me better today and know that in my faith (Islam), life is sacred.

In Surah 17:33, "And do not slay the soul (whose life) God has made inviolable..."

Surah 6:151, 'Say: "Do not slay the life that God has made sacred.... That is what He has charged you with that perhaps you will understand.'

Surah 5:32, "Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely (8.5 billion people). And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely (8.5 billion people)..."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) regarded the sanctity of life and property said it was more important than the sanctity of the 'Kaaba'"

The Kaaba is at the very center of our Holy Land; it is the place Abraham built, the first temple for monotheist worship and it is that approximately 1400 square foot house that three million peaceful pilgrims circumambulate annually in celebration of Abrahams obedience to God.

That gathering is the largest peace gathering in the universe and if one loses their temper navigating in the midst of over three million people in over 100

degree weather whilst performing the obligatory five days of grueling rituals; God does not accept their sacrifice.

Last but not least, I would like to bring you the glad tidings that Muslim Americans do not want to implement Shari'ah law in America.

To warrant this hysterical call to arms, would be an especially amazing feat considering only about 2% of our nation's population is Muslim.

Shari'ah is a system of law based on the tenets of Islam.

Certain politicians claim that American-Muslims want to replace our system of law with Shari'ah.

The two American-Muslim representatives -- Congressman Keith Ellison (8 years) and Congressman Andre Carson (6 years): both their records are devoid of pushing for Shari'ah law.

American-Muslim state legislators who serve in places such as New Hampshire, Missouri, Michigan and North Carolina -- including the longest-serving Muslim state-elected official, Larry Shaw, who has been a member of the North Carolina General Assembly for 16 years: None of them are pushing for Shari'ah Law.

Dearborn, Michigan, the city with the highest concentration of Muslims in America.

Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly -- said in a 2010 and 2011 interview: "There's no Shari'ah law in Dearborn, Michigan. ... It isn't even talked about in Dearborn."

The Islamic Society of North America's national director, Sayyid Syeed, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations' national outreach coordinator, Aseel Elborno, was asked, "Do you want to impose Shari'ah law across the United States?" Their answer: a resounding "no." They explained they simply want to be able to practice their faith just like all other proud Americans. Nothing more.

My Muslim friends and family members don't want Shari'ah law, neither do the Muslim elected officials, nor the biggest American-Muslim groups – not even the people of Dearborn Michigan.

If religious law -- regardless if it is Muslim, Jewish or Christian -- does not comport with the principles of U.S. law, our courts will not follow it.

It's that simple.

This is a well-established principle of our American legal system and perhaps that is why so many well-educated Muslims migrate to the U.S.

It appears that certain politicians have created this "Shari'ah monster" for their own purposes.

They scare us with their monster, and then they want to take credit for saving us from their own creation.

To those politicians who continue to stoke the flames of fear and bigotry to attract media attention and benefit their own political careers, I hope they will heed the words of President Ronald Reagan, who famously stated: "No one group in this country is better than another. No one race or religion or sex or color is better than another. ... It's time we erased the last vestiges of intolerance, bigotry and unkindness from our hearts. Decency demands this and so does our history."

The Prophet said in his last sermon, "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a white except by piety and good action.

May the Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon us all.

Prayers of the people

The Opening/Al-Fatihah

Arabic first.

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

All praise is due to God alone, the cherish her and sustainer of all the worlds.

Most gracious, most merciful.

Master of the day of judgment.

Thee alone do we worship in thee alone do we ask for help.

Show us the straightway.

The way of those on whom thou hast bestowed by grace and by blessings, not of those who have earned your wrath or who have gone astray.

Dedication and blessings of prayer shawls: reading

Hymn "O For a World" (Go to the vestibule on the third verse)

Commissioning and Benediction:

In the name of Allah, and peace and blessings be upon all the Messengers of Allah (Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, and those not named). We seek refuge in you lest we misguide others or be misguided by others, lest we abuse others or be abused, as we leave today. Amen

Departing song: "Let There be Peace on Earth"