



## ONE GOD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE BLOOD

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CELEBRATING AMISTAD SUNDAY: A LITANY

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Since March 2000, when the freedom schooner Amistad was launched in Mystic, Connecticut, over 300,000 adults, youth, and children have visited the ship at ports in different cities in America. For the first time, many people heard the important historical story about the Amistad.

The Amistad event of 1839 represents the first victory for freedom and human rights at the United States Supreme Court level on March 9, 1841. The Amistad story lifts up the vision and value of how Christian abolitionists—many of whom were both European American and African American Congregationalists—worked together to secure the freedom of fifty-three West African captives.

The strong commitment to God's justice, vital to the life of the United Church of Christ today, is rooted in the Amistad event. Our historical UCC commitment to doing God's mission in the world as ecumenical partners with other Protestant denominations and other religions, also strongly connects with the Amistad event. The presence of two hundred UCC missionaries engaged today in ministry and mission in fifty countries is a witness to our ecumenical and interfaith global vision. Our commitment to become a multiracial and multicultural, open and affirming, accessible and inclusive church and world is grounded in the same struggle evidenced in the Amistad story. We remember and draw on that Amistad story as a spirited guide leading us in the struggle to achieve God's freedom, racial equality, and economic justice for people of all nations in the world. This litany celebrates the Amistad story and calls on God, using names from many nations and faiths. The names of God in this litany come from the African Ashanti language (Nyame), the Native American Lakota language (Wakantanka), the Spanish language (Dios), and the faith language of Islam (Allah) and Judaism (Adonai).



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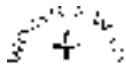
One: Nyame (*NAH-may*), on this Amistad Sunday, we remember and affirm the biblical vision that you have made, of one blood, all people who live in every nation throughout the world.

Men: Wakantanka (*wah-KAHN-tawn-kah*), we thank you for choosing us to be members of your church that worships and praises you in one thousand languages. You are worthy to be praised.

Women: Dios (*DEE-os*), we are grateful and we celebrate the diversity of many cultural gifts and different spiritual traditions that are expressions of our beloved United Church of Christ covenanted community.

One: Allah (*AWH-law*) who is merciful, loving, and forgiving, we thank you for the wonder and beauty of creation and we rejoice in the ways you make us one when we live in harmony with creation and each other.

**People: Adonai (*AD-doe-nye*), who is known by many names, we ask you to give us courage in the struggle for justice when we unite with 160 global partners in ninety countries to establish peace with justice for all people. Creator God, lead us and show us how to embrace the global vision of being your one human family. Amen.**



This litany was prepared by F. Allison Phillips, retired and former General Secretary for the American Missionary Association (1994–2000) and Executive Associate of Justice and Witness Covenanted Ministries (2000–2003). Phillips represented the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in negotiations with Amistad America, Inc. that resulted in the United Church of Christ's becoming a Founding Partner in the building of the Amistad freedom schooner.

For more information about Amistad Sunday, contact Diane Ford Jones, Minister for Communications and Mission Education, Justice and Witness Ministries, at <fordjond@ucc.org>.

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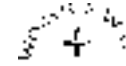
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