



SHUKRANI LIBATION

December 4th, 2022



A Prayer of Thanksgiving for People of African Descent

*This libation was written by the Rev. Dr. Scotty J. Williams
and was celebrated in Geneva, Switzerland at the United Nations' Permanent
Forum on People of African Descent.*

LITURGY

December 4, 2022

Shukrani Libation

PRELUDE

“African Drums”

GREETING

Leader: *Jambo!

People: Jambo!

Leader: In the love, earthly and heavenly, that brings and unites us all together I greet you.

**Pronounced jahm-bo. This is a Swahili word that means “welcome”.*

INVITATION

Leader: One thing that is common in most religions around the world, is the practice of libations or drinks poured out as an offering. In Christianity there is a libation at Communion, where a cup of grape juice or wine is poured in memory of Jesus. Communion also honors the memory of those who have gone before us, while embracing our lives in the here and now and looking with hope for the years to come.

Libation is an act of thanks for the past, present, and future, and this is also the focus of our gathering in this place. We are not here to simply talk about Black pain and struggle, but to acknowledge and show gratitude for Black joy throughout the ages.

Therefore, I invite you to give thanks together through a symbol that is shared across the world with all of its differences. Though there will be a prayer this is not about religion or one particular faith. This moment is an expression a gratitude, and a declaration of the joy that we all have in common.

DECLARATIONS

(The leader puts a bowl on the ground, lifts up a cup or pitcher of palm wine or water, and pours into the bowl after making each declaration)

Leader: We give thanks for the past, and the lessons it has taught us!

*People: *Asé!*

Leader: We give thanks for the present, and the blessings that it brings us!

People: Asé!

Leader: We give thanks for the future, and all of its potential!

People: Asé!

Leader: We give thanks for all these times and the joy and love within in!

People: Asé!

**Pronounced ah-shay. This is a Yoruba word that means, "Amen".*

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.....To the One Most High we declare our thanks for this gathering, and the many joys that it represents for all who are within it. We declare our thanks for the goodness shown unto those in the past, and the goodness shown unto us now as we hope for goodness in the years to come. Bless the words that will be spoken here with wisdom, care, and truth,

and grant us understanding with a spirit that goes beyond words. A spirit that matches faith with works for the well-being of others, and lifts all people from a place of pain to a blessed place of peace and joy. We ask all this in Your great name.

ALL: Asé