

Proclamation to Commemorate Le Chambon sur Lignon

WHEREAS, Pastor Andre Trocmé, Magda Trocmé, and Pastor Edouard Theis led organizing efforts to create a place of refuge in *Le Chambon sur Lignon* and surrounding villages for those facing persecution, deportation, and extermination by the Nazis and French Vichy Regimes;

WHEREAS, local residents, schools, and churches of the *Le Chambon sur Lignon* area engaged in coordinated acts of civil disobedience to create a complex rescue network of shelter, food, forged identification cards, and safe passage to Switzerland;

WHEREAS, other local and international peace and faith communities, including Protestants, Catholics, American Quakers, Jews, the Swiss Red Cross, Evangelicals, students of various faiths, and non-believers, supported the efforts to maintain the rescue network from 1940 to 1944;

WHEREAS, these unified rescue efforts saved 5,000 people including 3,000 to 3,500 Jews as well as Spanish, French, and German opponents of the Nazi regime;

WHEREAS, in recognition for their heroism, the village of *Le Chambon sur Lignon* and was the first of only two villages ever to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by *Yad Vashem*, Israel's Holocaust museum;

WHEREAS, we, the people of the City of Saint Paul, must remain vigilant and unified, ready to oppose persecution of all people including refugees and immigrants;

WHEREAS, we observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Day of Remembrance, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators; and

WHEREAS, on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember the millions of people who died and raise the cry of "never again;"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby proclaim that May 12, 2017 be declared

Day to Commemorate the town of Le Chambon sur Lignon and surrounding Villages