

Abrahamic Prayers – May 7, 2020

Welcome to the Abrahamic-and-beyond interfaith prayer service. We pray for peace and healing around the world and right where we are.

After a time of greetings and fellowship, we will begin in worshipful silence.

Hymn: Living In the Imagination of God

By Cecilia Olusola Tribble

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-living-in-the-imagination-of-god>

Sung in unison, led by [Worship Leader 1], others muted

Come, where God gives us hope.
We must stand and tell the goodness of God's love.
Share in God's dream, showing grace to all people.
We are living in the imagination of God.

Eyes have not seen – nor ears have heard –
What God has prepared for you and me.
Journey into worship and then you'll see
We are living in the imagination of God.

Opening Prayer:

From Cursillo and Eileen James

Spoken in unison, led by [Worship Leader 2], others muted

Breath of the Universe, beyond us yet within,
Deepen and enrich our sense of Your Presence, especially in others.
Fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit to and through us and we shall be created,
and You shall renew the face of the earth.

Thank You for bringing us together in this way at this time.
What is of You in this evening's dialogue, nurture it and bring it to fruition;
What is not of You, let it fade away quietly without a trace.
Thank You for every sign of spiritual progress in human affairs.
Help us to expect, recognize, treasure and build on Your continual revelation to us and to others.

So be it; or, in Hebrew, amen.

Readings

[Reader 1]

Qur'an. Surah 13:28-29

“Allah guides to Himself those who believe and whose hearts find rest remembering Him. Now surely in Allah’s remembrance do hearts find rest.”

[Reader 2]

Bible. Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

[Reader 3]

Thomas Merton - American Catholic monk, social activist, and scholar of comparative religion

“You do not need to know precisely what is happening or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and the challenges offered by the present moment and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope.”

Sung Prayer for Healing

By Debbie Friedman

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHko3CjuzpY>>

Sung in unison, led by [Worship Leader 1], others muted

Mi shebeirach avoteinu
M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu
May the source of strength who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing,
And let us say, Amen.

Prayer for Peace and Healing:

Spoken in unison, led by [Worship Leader 1], others muted

Surely there is special force in the shared prayer of intertwined faith communities.
We rest in Your Presence, picturing a Holy Land,
A Near East where political negotiations begin and end with interfaith prayer for peace,
A Near East, a globe which thus becomes as peaceful and good-natured as the paradise in this gathering.

One voice per entry

[Reader 4]

With prayers spoken and prayers unspoken, we hold this gathering in Your healing Light. Each past, present and future participant, right where they are at this hour.

[Reader 5]

Clergy and other participants in every house of faith touching our gathering this evening.
Political leaders making decisions locally, nationally, and around the world.
The President of the United States. Those who support and those who oppose his policies.
The Republican Party. The Democratic Party.
The Christian left. The Christian right. Secular left and right.
American Jews in their new sense of ancient vulnerability.
The United States as a fragile political whole.

[Reader 6]

All who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – medically, psychologically, relationally,
economically.
Healers of all kinds, and those in need of healing.

Silent Prayer - You are invited to call to mind specific persons, peoples, or situations or simply wait on or in the presence of the Divine.

[Worship Leader 1]

With thanksgiving, we hold so many in the Circle of Your Presence, Breath of the Universe.
Lift each and all to their true and highest self as an expression of Your own health and harmony
and power.

Sung Prayer for Healing (closing verse)

Sung in unison, led by [Worship Leader 1], others muted

Mi shebeirach imoteinu
M'kor habrachah l'avoteinu
Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah,
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,
And let us say, Amen.

Words and Discussion led by Rabbi Eric M. Berk

Introduced by Reverend Paul Allen

Readings

[Reader 7]

Talmud, Shabbat 31a

“What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law; all the rest is commentary.

[Reader 8]

Number 13 of Imam “Al-Nawawi’s Forty Hadiths”

“None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.”

[Reader 9]

Christian New Testament, Luke 6:31

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Closing

From Henri-Frederic Amiel’s benediction

Spoken in unison, led by [Worship Leader 2], others muted

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.

So, let us be quick to love, and make haste to be kind.

And may the peace which undergirds, accompanies, passes understanding embrace us this evening and until the next time we join in prayer.

Shalom. Peace. Tikkun olam. Heal the world.

Fellowship

You are welcome to unmute to greet and speak with the rest of the group.