

# Abrahamic Prayers – June 4, 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: O God of Vision

By Jane Parker Huber

Tune Name: LOBE DEN HERREN

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

O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,  
Gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.  
Show us anew – Life in your breath-taking view,  
Lovely beyond all our dreaming.

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.  
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.  
Speak through the dark – Dispel by lightning's bright spark  
Whatever clouds dim our vision.

## 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]

Mawlana Jalal-al-Din Rumi

“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”

[Reader 2]

Elie Wiesel

“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death.”

[Reader 3]

Nelson Mandela

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

## 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 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 United States as a fragile political whole.

[Reader 6]

All who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – medically, psychologically, relationally, economically.

Our society in this time of grief, protest, and violence following the unjust death of George Floyd.

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 Imam Ahmed Fawzy Ahmed

Introduced by Reverend Paul Allen

## Readings

[Reader 7]

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 8]

Christian New Testament, Luke 6:31

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

[Reader 9]

Talmud, Shabbat 31a

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

## 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.*