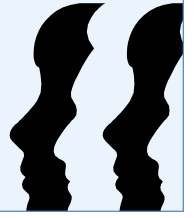




## Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

*We are drops of one ocean, leaves of one tree.*



### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Welcome - Carol Mansour
- Opening Prayers

#### *Christian Prayer*

*The Lord's Prayer, also known as the "Our Father" or "Pater noster" is probably the best-known prayer in Christianity. Two versions of it occur in the New Testament, one in the Gospel of Matthew 6:9-13 in which Jesus instructs people to pray after the manner of this prayer. The other version appears in the Gospel of Luke 11:2-4.*

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.... And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret... And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **Pray then like this:**

Our Father who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
For ever. Amen."

#### *Bahá'í Prayer*

O Thou Provider, O Thou Forgiver! Grant us Thy grace and loving-kindness, Thy gifts and Thy bestowals, and sustain us, that we may attain our goal. Thou art the Powerful, the Able, the Knower, the Seer; and verily Thou art the Generous, and verily Thou art the All Merciful, and verily Thou art the Ever-Forgiving, He to Whom repentance is due, He Who forgiveth even the most grievous of sins.  
— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

- Music - Dana Baker
- A Lesson on Forgiveness: *The Parable of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15: 11-3* (Janet McQuirk)
- Holy Writings

#### *From the Muslim Holy Writings*

Moses, son of Imran, said: "My Lord, who is the greatest of Thy servants in Thy estimation?" and received the reply, "The one who forgives when he is in a position of power." — Islam, Hadith of Baihaqi

The best deed of a great man is to forgive and forget. Where there is forgiveness, there is God Himself. — Islam, Nahjul Balagha, saying 201

Say: 'Servants of God, you that have sinned against your souls, do not despair of God's mercy, for He forgives all sins. It is He who is the Forgiving One, the Merciful. Turn in repentance to your Lord...' — Qur'an 39:53

### *From the Jewish Holy Writings*

...In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and you shall not do any work ... For on that day he shall provide atonement for you to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord. — *Leviticus 16: 29-30*

🌀 The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, marks a time for Jews of all traditions the chance not only to repent but to forgive.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of a 10-day period known as the High Holy Days, which culminates with Yom Kippur, or the “Day of Atonement,” the most solemn day on the Jewish calendar. Beginning Friday, Jews consciously reflect on their belief that God reviews their actions, words and thoughts during this time of judgment. It is a time where restitution for past wrongs is to be made and forgiveness from those whom one has offended or harmed is sought out. 🌀

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice; let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee... — *Psalms 130:1-4*

### *From the Hindu Tradition*

If anyone speaks ill of you,  
Praise him always.  
If anyone injures you,  
Serve him nicely.  
If anyone persecutes you,  
Help him in all possible ways.  
You will attain immense strength.  
You will control anger and pride.  
You will enjoy peace, poise and serenity.  
You will become divine — *Swami Sivananda*

The Supreme illumines the past by forgiveness. Real forgiveness means forgetfulness, conscious forgetfulness. If somebody really forgives you for something that you did, then he will not keep the memory even in his inner vision. Illumination is necessary because of darkness. Mistakes are darkness. So the Supreme illumines our mistakes through forgiveness.  
— *Sri Chinmoy*

### *From the Buddhist Tradition*

🌀 The Dalai Lama is the spiritual head of the Tibetan Vajrayana branch of Buddhist tradition. In an address at the University of Toronto in May of 2004, he said: “As a Buddhist monk, as a Buddhist practitioner, I am always shaping my motivation, every morning. The rest of the day, my physical being, my speech, my thoughts should be something useful. Although, I am Buddhist, so my daily way of thinking is much related to the Buddhist way of thinking but I believe like any other religion that Buddhism and all religions are helping people to be good human beings. Because all the teachings, they carry the same message — messages of love, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, contentment and self discipline.” — *The Dalai Lama* 🌀

[Listen carefully on this one! Two sentences, very similar but with a profound difference...]  
“He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me,”—in those who harbour such thoughts hatred will **never** cease. He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me,”—in those who do **not** harbour such thoughts hatred **will** cease. For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by **love**. This is an eternal law. — *Dhammapada 3-5*

### *From the Bahá'í Holy Writings*

In every instance let the friends be considerate and infinitely kind. Let them never be defeated by the malice of the people, by their aggression and their hate, no matter how intense. If others hurl their darts against you, offer them milk and honey in return; if they poison your lives, sweeten their souls; if they injure you, teach them how to be comforted; if they inflict a wound upon you, be a balm to their sores; if they sting you, hold to their lips a refreshing cup.  
— *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

If someone commits an error and wrong toward you, you must instantly forgive him. ...Do not look at the shortcomings of anybody; see with the sight of forgiveness. The imperfect eye beholds imperfections. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Be in perfect unity. Never become angry with one another. Let your eyes be directed toward the kingdom of truth and not toward the world of creation. Love the creatures for the sake of God and not for themselves. You will never become angry or impatient if you love them for the sake of God. Humanity is not perfect. There are imperfections in every human being, and you will always become unhappy if you look toward the people themselves. But if you look toward God, you will love them and be kind to them, for the world of God is the world of perfection and complete mercy. Therefore, do not look at the shortcomings of anybody; see with the sight of forgiveness. The imperfect eye beholds imperfections. The eye that covers faults looks toward the Creator of souls. He created them, trains and provides for them, endows them with capacity and life, sight and hearing; therefore, they are the signs of His grandeur.

— (*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 93*)

*From the Christian Holy Writings*

You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I [Jesus] say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. — **Matthew 5:38-41**

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. — **Luke 6:3**

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. — **Mark 11:25**

- Music - Dana Baker
- Closing Prayer

*From the Bahá'í Faith*

Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thou Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my god! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquility on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden.

— *Bahá'u'lláh*

- Closing Remarks
- Refreshments



The Unity Feast is sponsored by the Greater Nashville Bahá'í Community

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