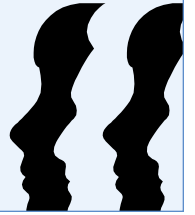




Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Praise and Gratitude

- Music and Slide Show as Guests Gather
- Welcome — Aram Ferdowsi
- Music
- Interfaith Prayers

Bahá'í Prayer

O Thou kind Lord! O Thou Who art generous and merciful! We are servants of Thy threshold and are gathered beneath the sheltering shadow of Thy divine unity. The sun of Thy mercy is shining upon all, and the clouds of Thy bounty shower upon all. Thy gifts encompass all, Thy loving providence sustains all, Thy protection overshadows all, and the glances of Thy favor are cast upon all. O Lord! Grant Thine infinite bestowals, and let the light of Thy guidance shine. Illumine the eyes, gladden the hearts with abiding joy. Confer a new spirit upon all people and bestow upon them eternal life. Unlock the gates of true understanding and let the light of faith shine resplendent. Gather all people beneath the shadow of Thy bounty and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breeze. May they receive illumination from the same source of light. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful, the Omnipotent. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Jewish Prayer

Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation and David said:

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.
Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;
You are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from You;
You are the ruler of all things.
In Your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give You thanks,
and praise Your glorious name. — *I Chronicles 29:11-13*

Christian Prayer

Be praised, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
Especially Brother Sun,
By whom You bring us the day and who brings us the light;
Fair is he and shines with a very great splendor..
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars, which you have set clear and lovely in
heaven.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather..
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and clean.
Be praised my Lord for Brother Fire, through whom You give us light in darkness, and he is
bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.
Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and keep us, and brings
forth fruits and flowers of many colors and leaves..
Praise and bless my Lord, and thank Him,
And serve Him with great humility. — *St. Francis of Assisi*

Native American Prayer

Oh Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the wind, Whose breath gives life to the world, Hear me!
I come to you as one of your many children.
I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.
May I walk in beauty. Make my eyes behold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things that you have made,
And my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may know the things that you have taught your children--
The lessons that you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
Make me strong, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be
able to fight my greatest enemy: myself.
Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes, so that
When life fades as the faded sunset
My spirit will come to you without shame. — **John Yellow Lark**

Bahá'í Prayer

Magnified be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou art He Whom all things worship and Who worshipeth no one, Who is the Lord of all things and is the vassal of none, Who knoweth all things and is known of none. Thou didst wish to make Thyself known unto men; therefore, Thou didst, through a word of Thy mouth, bring creation into being and fashion the universe. There is none other God except Thee, the Fashioner, the Creator, the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

I implore Thee, by this very word that hath shown forth above the horizon of Thy will, to enable me to drink deep of the living waters through which Thou hast vivified the hearts of Thy chosen ones and quickened the souls of them that love Thee, that I may, at all times and under all conditions, turn my face wholly towards Thee.

Thou art the God of power, of glory and bounty. No God is there beside Thee, the Supreme Ruler, the All-Glorious, the Omniscient. —**Bahá'u'lláh**

- **Music**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

You, the World Honored One, are a great benefactor.
By doing this rare thing, You taught and benefited us
Out of your compassion towards us.

No one will be able to repay your favors
Even if he tries to do it
For many hundreds of millions of kalpas.* [***kalpa** means a very long period of time]
No one will be able to repay your favors
Even if he bows to you respectfully,
And offers you his hands or feet or anything else.
No one will be able to repay your favors
Even if he carries you on his head or shoulders
And respects you from the bottom of his heart
For as many kalpas as there are sands in the River Ganges. — **Buddhism: Lotus Sutra 4**

From the Hindu Holy Writings

Knowing Me the source of all, by Me all creatures wrought,
The wise in spirit cleave to Me, into My Being brought;
Hearts fixed on Me; breaths breathed to Me; praising Me, each to each,
So have they happiness and peace, with pious thought and speech;
And unto these—thus serving well, thus loving ceaselessly—
I give a mind of perfect mood, whereby they draw to Me;
And, all for love of them, within their darkened souls I dwell,
And, with bright rays of wisdom's lamp, their ignorance dispel. — **The Bhagavad-Gita, Ch. X**

From the Muslim Holy Writings

It is God who has made the night for you, that you may rest therein, and the day, as that which helps you to see. Verily God is full of grace and bounty to men, yet most men give no thanks.

It is God who has made for you the earth as a resting place, and the sky as a canopy, and has given you shape--and made your shapes beautiful--and has provided for you sustenance of things pure and good; such is God, your Lord. So glory to God, the Lord of the Worlds! — *Islam. Qur'an 40.61, 64*

From the Zoroastrianism Holy Writings

Holy is the man of devotion;
Through thoughts and words and deed
And through his conscience he increases Righteousness;
The Wise Lord as Good Mind gives the dominion.
For this good reward I pray.

I know that my greatest good is to worship
the Wise Lord and those that have been and are.
By their names will I worship them
And come before them with praise. —*Avesta, Yasna 50.21-22*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

There is a cordial thanksgiving, too, which expresses itself in the deeds and actions of man when his heart is filled with gratitude. For example, God has conferred upon man the gift of guidance, and in thankfulness for this great gift certain deeds must emanate from him. To express his gratitude for the favors of God man must show forth praiseworthy actions. In response to these bestowals he must render good deeds, be self-sacrificing, loving the servants of God, forfeiting even life for them, showing kindness to all the creatures. He must be severed from the world, attracted to the Kingdom of Abha, the face radiant, the tongue eloquent, the ear attentive, striving day and night to attain the good pleasure of God. Whatsoever he wishes to do must be in harmony with the good pleasure of God. He must observe and see what is the will of God and act accordingly. There can be no doubt that such commendable deeds are thankfulness for the favors of God.— *'Abdu'l-Bahá, Unfolding Destiny*

- Music
- Closing Remarks
- Refreshments



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