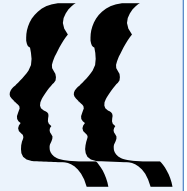


Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Prayer and Meditation

- **Welcome**
- **Interfaith Prayers**

Bahá'í Prayer

O thou who art turning thy face toward God! Close thine eyes to all things else, and open them to the realm of the All-Glorious. Ask whatsoever thou wishest of Him alone; seek whatsoever thou seekest from Him alone. With a look He granteth a hundred thousand hopes, with a glance He healeth a hundred thousand incurable ills, with a glimpse He layeth balm on every wound, with a nod He freeth the hearts from the shackles of grief.... Then better for thee to bow down thy head in submission, and put thy trust in the All-Merciful Lord.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá: Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 51*

Zoroasterian Prayer

I invite and invoke
the Wise Lord, the Creator,
the radiant and glorious,
the greatest and the best,
the most beautiful, most firm, most wise,
Who attains His ends the most infallibly
because of His righteous order,
Who disposes our minds aright,
Who sends His joy-creating grace afar,
Who made us, and has fashioned us,
Who has nourished us, and protected us,
Who is the most bounteous spirit! — *Yasna i. 1; Sacred Books of the East xxi. 195-196*

Christian Prayer (in Aramaic, the language Christ spoke)

Our Father which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen — *"The Lord's Prayer" — Matt: 6:9-13*

Hindu Prayer

O Thou, who givest sustenance to the world, unveil the face of the true Sun, now hidden from us by its veil of golden light, so that we may see the truth, and know our whole duty. May the Eternal One protect us evermore. We have no other Friend, no other Father than the Father of Heaven, Who is the Father of mankind. — *The Gayatri*

- **Musical Entertainment**
- **Holy Writings**

From the Moslem Holy Writings

Call on your Lord with humility and in private. — *Qur'an 7:55*

From the Jewish Holy Writings

Prayer should not be recited as if a man were reading a document.

— *Jerusalem Talmud, Berakot 4.3*

Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be silent. — *Psalms 4:4*

From the Christian Holy Writings

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. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And in prayer 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.— *Matthew 6:5-8*

From the Hindu Holy Writings

When all the senses are stilled, when the mind is at rest, when the intellect waves not—then, say the wise, is reached the highest state. This calm of the senses and the mind has been defined as yoga. He who attains it is freed from delusion. — *Katha Upanishad 2.6.10-11*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

We believe in God, and that which hath been sent down to us, and that which hath been sent down to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes; and that which hath been given to Moses and to Jesus, and that which was given to the prophets from their Lord. No difference do we make between any of them.— *Qur'an Sura 3:84*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

The reason why privacy hath been enjoined in moments of devotion is this, that thou mayest give thy best attention to the remembrance of God, that thy heart may at all times be animated with His Spirit, and not be shut out as by a veil from the Best Beloved. Let not thy tongue pay lip service in praise of God while thy heart be not attuned to the exalted Summit of Glory, and Focal Point of communion. — *The Báb, Selections from the Writings of The Báb, p. 93-94*

- **Musical Selections**
- **Holy Writings**

From the Hindu Holy Writings

When meditation is mastered, the mind is unwavering like the flame of a lamp in a windless place. In the still mind, in the depths of meditation, the eternal self reveals itself. Beholding the Self by means of the Self, an aspirant knows the joy and peace of complete fulfillment. Having attained that abiding joy beyond the senses, revealed in the stilled mind, he never swerves from the central truth. He desires nothing else, and cannot be shaken by the heaviest burden of sorrow. The practice of meditation frees one from all affliction. This is the path of yoga....

Wherever the mind wanders, restless and diffuse in its search for satisfaction without, lead it within; train it to rest in the Self. Abiding joy comes to those who still the mind. Freeing themselves from the taint of self-will, with their consciousness unified, they become one with God. — *Bhagavad Gita 6:18-27*

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

Bodhisattvas should leave behind all phenomenal distinctions and awaken the thought of the Consummation of Incomparable Enlightenment by not allowing the mind to depend upon notions evoked by the sensible world—by not allowing the mind to depend upon notions evoked by sounds, odors, flavors, touch contacts, or any qualities. The mind should be kept independent of any thoughts which arise within it. If the mind depends upon anything it has no sure haven. — *Diamond Sutra 14*

- **Story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on How to Pray**
- **Music**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Moslem Holy Writings

Your Lord says, "Call on Me; I will answer your prayer." — *Qur'an, 40:60*

When My servants ask you concerning Me, I am indeed close to them. I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on Me. — *Qur'an, 2:186*

From the Christian Holy Writings

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. — *James 5:13-15*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

The most acceptable prayer is the one offered with the utmost spirituality and radiance, its prolongation hath not been and is not beloved by God. The more detached and the purer the prayer, the more acceptable is it in the presence of God. — *The Báb*

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

Without knowledge there is no meditation, without meditation there is no knowledge. He who has knowledge and meditation is near to Nirvana. — *Dhammapada*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Through the faculty of meditation man attains to eternal life; through it he receives the breath of the Holy Spirit—the bestowal of the Spirit is given in reflection and meditation. The Spirit of man is itself informed and strengthened during meditation; through it affairs of which man knew nothing are unfolded before his view. Through it he receives Divine inspiration, through it he receives heavenly food. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks*

- **Music**

- **Closing Remarks**

- **Closing Prayer**

Intone, O my servant, the verses of God that have been received by thee, as intoned by them who have drawn nigh unto Him, that the sweetness of thy melody may kindle thine own soul, and attract the hearts of all men. Whoso reciteth, in the privacy of his chamber, the verses revealed by God, the scattering angels of the Almighty shall scatter abroad the fragrance of the words uttered by his mouth, and shall cause the heart of every righteous man to throb. Though he may, at first, remain unaware of its effect, yet the virtue of the grace vouchsafed unto him must needs sooner or later exercise its influence upon his soul. Thus have the mysteries of the Revelation of God been decreed by virtue of the Will of Him Who is the Source of power and wisdom. — *Bahá'u'lláh*

- **Refreshments**



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

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