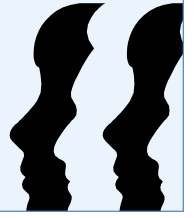


Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Women and Religion

- **Welcome - Corky Smothers**
- **Opening Prayers**

Bahá'í Prayer

O Lord! Help this daughter of the Kingdom to be exalted in both worlds; cause her to turn away from this mortal world of dust and from those who have set their hearts thereon and enable her to have communion and close association with the world of immortality. Give her heavenly power and strengthen her through the breaths of the Holy Spirit that she may arise to serve Thee. Thou art the Mighty One. — **Abdu'l-Bahá**,

Hindu Prayer

O God

Let us be united; Let us speak in harmony;

Let our minds apprehend alike.

Common be our prayer; common be the end of our assembly;

Common be our resolution; Common be our deliberations.

Alike be our feelings; Unified be our hearts;

Common be our intentions; perfect be our unity.

— **Rig-Veda**

Christian Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, Who art in heaven,

Hallowed by 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, forever.

Amen. — **Matthew 6:9-13**

- **Music - Tom Shinness**
- **Holy Writings**

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

And among the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is the equality of women and men. The world of humanity has two wings—one is women and the other man. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of women becomes equal to the world of men in the acquisition of virtues and perfections, can success and prosperity be attained as they ought to be.

— **'Abdu'l-Bahá: Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá**

Bahá'í Scripture emphatically states that women will be the greatest factor in establishing universal peace and international arbitration. "So it will come to pass that when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world, when they enter confidently and capably the great arena of laws and politics, war will cease; for woman will be the obstacle and hindrance to it." — **'Abdu'l-Bahá, promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 375**

From the Hindu Holy Writings

I am He, you are She;

I am Song, you are Verse,

I am Heaven, you are Earth.

We two shall here together dwell,

becoming parents of children. — **Hinduism, Atharva Veda 14.2.71**

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

Buddhism does not consider women as being inferior to men. The Buddha emphasized the fruitful role the woman can play and should play as a wife, a good mother in making the family life a success. In the family, both husbands and wives are expected to share equal responsibility and discharge their duties with equal dedication. The husband is admonished to consider the wife a friend, a companion, a partner. The wife is expected to acquaint herself with the trade, business or industries in which the husband engaged, so that she would be in a position to manage his affairs in his absence. Buddha unhesitatingly accepted that women are capable of realizing the Truth, just as men are and he permitted women to be admitted into the Order.

— **Buddhist Studies: Buddha Dharma Education Association; Buddhism and Women**

From the Jewish Holy Writings

Compared to other cultures of the time, Jewish women enjoyed great liberty and esteem, and many women distinguished themselves as prophetesses and leaders in Jewish society. Women such as Miriam, Deborah, Esther and others played important and decisive roles in Israel's history.

As evidence of the equality of men and women, the Ten Commandments require children to honor both their father and mother: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you." — **Exodus 20:12**

From the Christian Holy Writings

Jesus' attitude toward women was radically different from what was customary at the time. Women normally stayed home and attended to domestic duties. But Jesus allowed women to travel with Him and His twelve disciples. In Luke 8: 1-3 it is written that Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna - and many others - travelled with the group. And in Luke 10:38-42, we find that at the home of Mary and Martha, "Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching."

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and John, Salome, Joanna, Susanna, and other women were prominent among Jesus' devoted followers. Some remained with Jesus to comfort Him at His crucifixion when all His apostles had fled in terror (Matthew 27:55-56, Mark 15:40-41), and Mary Magdalene and other women were privileged to be the first to discover that Jesus had risen from the dead. (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16: 1-7; Luke 24:1-11.)

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

"...Women have equal rights with men upon earth; in religion and society they are a very important element. As long as women are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to achieve the greatness which might be theirs."

"...Divine Justice demands that the rights of both sexes should be equally respected since neither is superior to the other in the eyes of Heaven. Dignity before God depends, not on sex, but on purity and luminosity of heart. Human virtues belong equally to all!"

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

- **Music: Tom Shinness**
- **Speaker: Carmen Turner**
- **Closing Remarks**
- **Refreshments**



The mission of the Unity Feast is to bring people from all religions and backgrounds together in a spirit of friendship and understanding in order to explore common spiritual values from all the world's major religions. Our goal is to focus on those things we have in common, so that we can do our part to bring unity to humanity ... one person at a time.

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

Visit us online at www.unityfeast.org