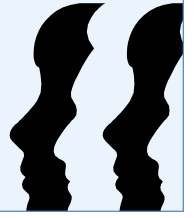




Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Spiritual Growth

- **Welcome - Susan Blair**
- **Opening Prayers**

Bahá'í Prayer

O my God! O my God! This, Thy servant, hath advanced towards Thee, is passionately wandering in the desert of Thy love, walking in the path of Thy service, anticipating Thy favors, hoping for Thy bounty, relying upon Thy kingdom, and intoxicated by the wine of Thy gift.

O my God! Increase the fervor of his affection for Thee, the constancy of his praise of Thee, and the ardor of his love for Thee.

Verily, Thou art the Most Generous, the Lord of grace abounding. There is no other God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Merciful.. —'Abdu'l-Bahá

O my Lord! O my Lord!

I am a child of tender years. Nourish me from the breast of Thy mercy, train me in the bosom of Thy love, educate me in the school of Thy guidance and develop me under the shadow of Thy bounty. Deliver me from darkness, make me a brilliant light; free me from unhappiness, make me a flower of the rose garden; suffer me to become a servant of Thy threshold and confer upon me the disposition and nature of the righteous; make me a cause of bounty to the human world, and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life.

Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer.—'Abdu'l-Bahá

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*

Native American Prayer

*My Father, Great Spirit,
Who send'est the wind and the White Snow from the north,
To make Thy creation clean and pure,
Father, make me clean and pure within my heart,
That I may be accepted in Thy sight and judgement.*

*Father, Great Spirit,
To the east from whence cometh the rising of the sun,
and all Thy living creation,
Thou hast added another day to my life,
for which I give Thee thanks with all my heart.— from the Lakota tradition*

- **Music - J. J. Kent**
- **Guest Speaker - Pam Volk**

- **Music - Gary Brown**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

Practicing step by step,
One gradually fulfills all Buddha teachings,
It is like first setting up a foundation
Then building the room:
Generosity and self-control, like this,
Are bases of enlightening beings' practices. — **Garland Sutra 10**

By degrees, little by little, from time to time, a wise person should remove his own impurities as a smith removes the dross from silver. — **Dhammapada 239**

From the Hindu Holy Writings

Through constant effort over many lifetimes, a person becomes purified of all selfish desires and attains the supreme goal of life. — **Bhagavad Gita 6.45**

From the Jewish Holy Writings

Study of Torah leads to precision, precision to zeal, zeal to cleanliness,
cleanliness to restraint, restraint to purity, purity to holiness,
holiness to meekness, meekness to fear of sin, fear of sin to saintliness,
saintliness to the holy spirit, and the holy spirit to life eternal. — **Talmud, Aboda Zara 20b**

From the Muslim Holy Writings

O man! Verily you are ever toiling on towards your Lord—painfully toiling—but you shall meet Him.... You shall surely travel from stage to stage. — **Qur'an 84.6, 19**

From the Christian Holy Writings

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. —**2 Peter 1:3-8**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.—**Galatians 5:22-23**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Spirituality is the greatest of God's gifts.... May you, one and all, increase daily in spirituality, may you be strengthened in all goodness, may you be helped more and more by the Divine consolation, be made free by the Holy Spirit of God, and may the power of the Heavenly Kingdom live and work among you.— **'Abdul-Bahá, Paris Talks, pp 109-112**

Know, O thou possessors of insight, that true spirituality is like unto a lake of clear water which reflects the divine. Of such was the spirituality of Jesus Christ. There is another kind which is like a mirage, seeming to be spiritual when it is not. That which is truly spiritual must light the path to God, and must result in deeds. We cannot believe the call to be spiritual when there is no result. Spirit is reality, and when the spirit in each of us seeks to join itself with the Great Reality, it must in turn give life. —**'Abdu'l-Bahá, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 107**

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for

the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.
—Bahá'u'lláh

- **Music — Gary Brown**

- **Closing Prayer**

From the Jewish and Christian Faiths

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

— Numbers 6:24-27

- **Closing Remarks**

- **Refreshments**



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

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