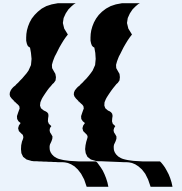




Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Life After Death - The Immortal Soul

- **Welcome**
- **Song, "Amazing Grace"**
- **Opening Prayers**

Christian Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand.

To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life. — *St. Francis of Assisi*

Bahá'í Prayer

Lauded be Thy name, O my God and the God of all things, my Glory and the Glory of all things, my Desire and the Desire of all things, my strength and the strength of all things, my King and the King of all things, my Possessor and the Possessor of all things, my Mover and the Mover of all things! Suffer me not, I implore Thee, to be kept back from the ocean of Thy tender mercies, nor to be far removed from the shores of nearness to Thee. Aught else except Thee, O my Lord, profiteth me not, and near access to anyone save Thyself availeth me nothing. I entreat Thee by the plenteousness of Thy riches, whereby Thou didst dispense with all else except Thyself, to number me with such as have set their faces towards Thee and arisen to serve Thee. Forgive, then, O my Lord, Thy servants and Thy handmaidens. Thou, truly, art the Ever Forgiving, the most Compassionate. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Hindu Prayer

Now my breath and spirit goes to the Immortal,
and this body ends in ashes;

OM. O Mind! remember. Remember the deeds.

Remember the actions. — *Isha Upanishad 17, Yajur Veda 40.15*

Bahá'í Prayer

O my God! O thou forgiver of sins, bestower of gifts, dispeller of afflictions! Verily, I beseech Thee to forgive the sins of such as have abandoned the physical garment and have ascended to the spiritual world. O my Lord! Purify them from trespasses, dispel their sorrows, and change their darkness into light. Cause them to enter the garden of happiness, cleanse them with the most pure water, and grant them to behold Thy splendors on the loftiest mount. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

- **Music**
- **Holy Writings**

From the Jewish Holy Writings

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed,

Or the golden bowl is broken,

Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain,

Or the wheel broken at the well.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,

And the spirit will return to God who gave it. — *Ecclesiastes 12: 6-7*

From the Christian Holy Writings

If the dead are not raised [to another life], “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die...” But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ...There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and the star differs from star in splendor.

So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.... And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

— *I Corinthians 15:32-50*

From the Hindu Holy Writings

One man believes he is the slayer, another believes he is the slain. Both are ignorant; there is neither slayer nor slain. You were never born; you will never die. You have never changed; you can never change. Unborn, eternal, immutable, immemorial, you do not die when the body dies. Realizing that which is indestructible, eternal, unborn, and unchanging, how can you slay or cause another to be slain?

As a man abandons his worn-out clothes and acquires new ones, so when the body is worn out a new one is acquired by the Self, who lives within.

The Self cannot be pierced with weapons or burned with fire; water cannot wet it, nor can the wind dry it. The Self cannot be pierced or burned, made wet or dry. It is everlasting and infinite, standing on the motionless foundation of eternity. The Self is unmanifested, beyond all thought, beyond all change. Knowing this, you should not grieve.

— *Bhagavad Gita 2.19-25*

From the Muslim Holy Writings

O people! Fear God, and whatever you do, do it anticipating death. Try to attain everlasting blessing in return for transitory and perishable wealth, power, and pleasures of this world. Be prepared for a fast passage because here you are destined for a short stay. Always be ready for death, for you are living under its shadow. Be wise like people who have heard the message of God and have taken a warning from it... You must remember to gather from this life such harvest as will be of use and help to you hereafter. — *Nahjul Balagha, Sermon 67*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Night hath succeeded day, and day hath succeeded night, and the hours and moments of your lives have come and gone, and yet none of you hath, for one instant, consented to detach himself from that which perisheth. Bestir yourselves, that the brief moments that are still yours may not be dissipated and lost. Even as the swiftness of lightning your days shall pass, and your bodies shall be laid to rest beneath a canopy of dust. What can ye then achieve? How can ye atone for your past failure? — *Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings 151*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure. It will manifest the signs of God and His attributes, and will reveal His loving kindness and bounty.

— *Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era, page 188*

- **Music**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Muslim Holy Writings

Know that the present life is but a sport and a diversion, an adornment and a cause of boasting among you, and a rivalry in wealth and children. It is as a rain whose vegetation pleases the unbelievers; then it withers, and you see it turning yellow, then it becomes straw. And in the Hereafter there is grievous punishment, and forgiveness from God and good pleasure; whereas the present life is but the joy of delusion. — *Qur'an 57.20*

From the Christian Holy Writings

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. — *Matthew 6:19-21*

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. — *II Corinthians 4:1*

From the Hindu Holy Writings

Those who remember Me at the time of death will come to Me. Do not doubt this. Whatever occupies the mind at the time of death determines the destiny of the dying; always they will tend toward that state of being. Therefore, remember Me at all times. — *Bhagavad Gita 8.5-7*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Question: Through what means will the spirit of man—that is to say, the rational soul—after departing from this mortal world, make progress?

Answer: The progress of man's spirit in the divine world after the severance of its connection with the body of dust, is through the bounty and grace of the Lord alone, or through the intercession and the sincere prayers of other human souls, or through the charities and important good works which are performed in its name.

Question: Does the soul progress more through sorrow or through the joy in this world?

Answer: The mind and spirit of man advance when he is tried by suffering. The more the ground is ploughed the better the seed will grow, the better the harvest will be. Just as the plough furrows the earth deeply, purifying it of weeds and thistles, so suffering and tribulation free man from the petty affairs of this worldly life until he arrives at a state of complete detachment. His attitude in this world will be that of divine happiness. Man is, so to speak, unripe; the heat of the fire of suffering will mature him. Look back to the times past and you will find that the greatest men have suffered most. — *'Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions*

- **Closing Remarks**
- **Refreshments**



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