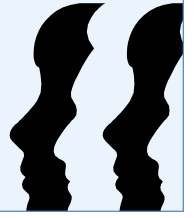




Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

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



Unity of Religions

- **Welcome - Carol Mansour**
- **Music: J. J. Kent**
- **Interfaith Prayers**

Bahá'í Prayer

O Thou kind Lord! Thou has created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence. O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou has provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy. O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony. O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind. O God, establish the Most Great Peace. Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together. O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence. Thou art the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Prayer for Youth

O Lord! Make this youth radiant, and confer Thy bounty upon this poor creature. Bestow upon him knowledge, grant him added strength at the break of every morn and guard him within the shelter of Thy protections so that he may be freed from error, may devote himself to the service of Thy Cause, may guide the wayward, lead the hapless, free the captives and awaken the heedless, that all may be blessed with Thy remembrance and praise. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Prayer for Youth: (in Spanish)

Christian Prayer

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

- **Holy Writings**

From the Hindu Holy Writings

Truth has many aspects. Infinite truth has infinite expressions. Though the sages speak in divers ways, they express one and the same Truth. Ignorant is he who says, "What I say and know is true; others are wrong." It is because of this attitude of the ignorant that there have been doubts and misunderstandings about God. This attitude it is that causes dispute among men. But all doubts vanish when one gains self control and attains tranquility by realizing the heart of Truth. Thereupon dispute, too, is at an end.— *Srimad Bhagavatam 11.15*

From the Moslem 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 Christian Holy Writings

Christ said: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." — *John 16:12-13*

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am." — *John 8:58*

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of Me." — *John 5:46*

"When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me." — *John 15:26*

* **Speaker - Thom Thompson**

• **Music - Dancers from the Kristin Butke School of Irish Dance**

• **Holy Writings**

From the Jewish Holy Writings

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. — *Deuteronomy 18:15*

Our rabbis have taught, we support the poor of the heathen along with the poor of Israel, visit the sick of the heathen along with the sick of Israel, and bury the [dead] poor of the heathen along with the sick of Israel, in the interests of peace. — *Talmud, Gittin 61*

From the Hindu Holy Writings

Again, attributed to Krishna, speaking as the Voice of God: "Knoweth thou this, O Prince, that whenever the world declineth in virtue and righteousness; and vice and injustice mount the throne — then cometh I, the Lord, and revisit my world in visible form, and mingleth as a man with men, and by my influence and teachings do I destroy the evil and injustice, and re-establish virtue and righteousness. Many times have I thus appeared; many times hereafter shall I come again.

— *Bhagavad Gita*

From the Moslem Holy Writings

As the records of man are imperfect,
And the memory of man unstable:
The names of many of these messengers
Are known in one place and not in another,
Or among one people and not among others;
And some of their names have perished utterly;
But their message stands one and indivisible,
Even though it may have been forgotten,
Or twisted by ignorance, error, superstition or perversity;
Or misunderstood in the blinding light
Of time or tortuous Circumstances.
— *Introduction (C. 9.) of 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali's The Meaning of The Holy Qur'an*

• **Music - J.J. Kent**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

Likewise, the divine religions of the holy Manifestations of God are in reality one, though in name and nomenclature they differ. Man must be a lover of the light, no matter from what dayspring it may appear. He must be a lover of the rose, no matter in what soil it may be growing. He must be a seeker of the truth, no matter from what source it come. Attachment to the lantern is not loving the light. The word of truth, no matter which tongue utters it, must be sanctioned.

Why not put an end to this religious strife and establish a bond of connection between the hearts of men? Why should not the followers of one religion praise the Founder or Teacher of another? Inasmuch as our God is one God and the Creator of all mankind, He provides for and protects all. We acknowledge Him as a God of kindness, justice and mercy. Why then should we, His children and followers, war and fight, bringing sorrow and grief into the hearts of each other? God is loving and merciful. His intention in religion has ever been the bond of unity and affinity between humankind. — 'Abdul-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*

From the Bahá'í Holy Writings

The word of truth, no matter which tongue utters it, must be sanctioned. ... If we investigate the religions to discover the principles underlying their foundations, we will find they agree; for the fundamental reality of them is one and not multiple. By this means the religionists of the world will reach their point of unity and reconciliation. They will ascertain the truth that the purpose of religion is the acquisition of praiseworthy virtues, betterment of morals, spiritual development of mankind, the real life and divine bestowals. All the prophets have been the promoters of these principles; none of them has been the promoter of corruption, vice or evil. They have summoned mankind to all good. They have united people in the love of God, invited them to the religions of the unity of mankind and exhorted them to amity and agreement. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Foundations of World Unity*, p. 15

- **Dancers from the Kristin Butke School of Irish Dance**
- **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