

INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR UNITY AND LAMENT



Thank you for joining us this evening. This service was born out of the love and relationships that have been built over the last seven years of the Faith Club members. We hope you find it to be a time of openness, connection, and hope in this dark and troubled time.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND PRAYER

The Rev. Kelly Demo

Psalm 13 (*said together*)

- 1** How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2** How long must I bear pain in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3** Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
- 4** and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5** But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6** I will sing to the Lord
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

REFLECTION

Bill Tammeus

MEDITATION:

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

*Julienne Stapleton
Maggie Hendricks
Hope Dedrick*

A LITANY OF FAITH AND HOPE

God of Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in justice, harmony, and peace. Surround us with your love as we pray for the Holy Land. God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER

God of Righteousness, who demands that our worldly governors take up their responsibility to protect those in their charge and uphold the dignity of all human beings, pour your wisdom into the leaders of this world. For all who bear such responsibility, that they may put the good of the whole over their own greed for power, God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God of Compassion, who even in the darkest times, shows us your path: we give you thanks for all those who in the face of crisis wrought by evil-doers, work to help the helpless, to hold out hope to the desolate, to speak for the voiceless and to bring understanding and knowledge to a world darkened by ignorance and hate. For our siblings who risk much to aid others, that their actions may be successful, and their words may be heard, God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God of Mercy, who binds up the wounds of those who suffer, bless the victims of the consequences of fear and hate in the last week and over the past conflict in the Holy Land: those injured and traumatized, those bereaved and grieving, those held as captives and prisoners, those who face deprivation and desperation because of systems of violence and oppression, so that they may move forward in this life standing firm in your truth and avoiding the temptation of vengeance. For all whose lives

are forever marked by suffering, that they may be blessed with the hope of your presence, God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God of Life, whose faithfulness to us is never-ending, we remember before you those who have died by the violence that has become shockingly routine in your Holy Land; receive them into your heart where they may know the peace and joy of eternal life in you. For all who have died, that they may rest in that place where pain is no more, God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God of Justice, who calls us to uphold the dignity of every human being, every child of this earth, beloved of you: empower your people to help you heal this terrible cycle of violence and revenge; give us courage to rise above our fear that nothing can be done in the face of the conflict and chaos of our own creating; grant us the conviction to advocate for change and to work for the establishment of your peace, your shalom, you salaam, in this broken world. For your dream of justice and peace on earth, and for us, that we may take up your call to build it, God, in your mercy,

R. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS

Imam Herbert

“O believers! Stand firm for justice as witnesses before God even if it is against yourselves, your parents, or close relatives. Be they rich or poor, God is best to take care of them. So, do not let your desires cause you to deviate from justice”. If you distort the testimony or refuse to give it, then know that God is certainly All-Aware of what you do.

O believers! Have faith in God, His Messenger, the Book He has revealed to His Messenger, and the Scriptures He revealed before (to other prophets such as Jesus and Moses). Indeed, whoever denies God, His angels, His Books, His messengers, and the Last Day has clearly gone far astray.” -Qur'an 4:135-136

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Barbara McCall

O God, even as we pray for the day
when no one's children will be sacrificed to war,
we pray for the children among us.
Give them, in the midst of the confusion around us,
moments to play and to rejoice in your creation.
Give us calm to comfort their fears.
We include in our prayers those far away
who seek to comfort, feed, and shelter their children
in this time of tension and war.
Give all of us grace to be still,
know that you are God,
and join our children in moments of simple joy
that remind us all that life and love
are your enduring gifts;
Amen.

REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS

Steve Fleischaker

HYMN:

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blest.

2 He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

3 The heavenly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty,
and endless rest.
There, milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

PRAYER FOR UNITY

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,
look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the
controversial teachings of arrogance, divisions and hatreds which have
badly infected our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; reunite us
in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to
accomplish Your purposes on earth; that, in Your good time, all nations
and races may jointly serve You in justice, peace and harmony.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

So long as we enjoy the light of day
may we greet one another with love.
So long as we enjoy the light of day
may we pray for one another.

At the conclusion of the service all are welcome to join us in the lobby for refreshments.

FAITH CLUB



A gathering of all faiths meeting in small groups on a regular basis to share our spiritual journeys, to look for commonalities as we respectfully listen to our differences for deeper understanding. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact one of the recruitment coordinators and fill out an interest form.

Vision:

We are building a society of richness, diversity and inclusion of all faith communities.

Mission:

Discover commonalities with people of different faiths that bridge divisions and develop friendships. Gain an understanding of other faiths through dialogue, understanding and meaningful relationships.

Values:

Respect for others and their faith traditions, collaboration, listening for understanding, nurture meaningful discussions and relationships.

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