



**Interfaith Prayer Service for  
Mayor London Nicole Breed**

**Third Baptist Church**  
Monday, January 6, 2020

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

Thank you Reverend Brown and the faithful of Third Baptist Church for hosting this historic interfaith service. It is an ancient and time-honored tradition that religious leaders and communities of faith pray for their civic leaders and those who protect them. It is in this spirit that we gather here this evening in anticipation of the inauguration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, The Honorable London Nicole Breed.

I join the Founder and Past Chair of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Rita Semel, our Board of Directors and the 800 religious institutions in our City who, for three decades, have brought people of different faiths together to celebrate the rich diversity of our spiritual and religious traditions, build understanding and serve our community, in extending our fervent prayers and support to our Mayor on this momentous occasion.

Be it tirelessly laboring to uphold human and civil rights for all of our residents, providing shelter and meals for the homeless, seeking to repurpose religious properties for low-paid yet essential workers, protecting and defending the environment, giving birth to the sanctuary movement and defending the rights of vulnerable immigrants, being ready and prepared to come to the aid of our City in times of disaster, and so much more, San Francisco's communities of faith stand with you, Madam Mayor, at this profound crossroad in our history.

We offer this evening's worship to you as a gift, realizing the gravity of the challenges you are being called to address on our behalf. As you prepare to embark on your first full term of office, may you be blessed with the charisms of discernment, strength, patience and perseverance, and may the hallmarks of your tenure as our Mayor be those of justice, inclusion, peace, unity and collaboration.

With this blessing, I present to you, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Kaushik Roy, to present the Interfaith Statement read as a grounding and foundational premise at all Interfaith Council convenings in our City.