

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

The Honorable Willie L. Brown, Mayor  
San Francisco, California

• • • •

## *"Caring for the City's Children"*



### UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Tuesday, November 20, 2001  
6:30 - 8:30 O'Clock in the Morning  
Cathedral Hill Hotel  
San Francisco

Hosted by:  
SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL

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Prayers from Faith-Communities in The City

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#### Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast 2001

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Interfaith Prayer Book compiled and assembled by  
The San Francisco Interfaith Council  
401 Baker Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
office: 415/474-1321  
fax: 415/-409-2126  
e-mail: Sfinterfaith@hotmail.com

### Prayer from Faith-Communities in the City

The future world  
is what human beings  
want it to be  
and children are our future.

## Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast Prayer

Rev. Alan Jones

We pray for a gracious spirit-in us and in others

long on listening and short on judging

We pray for a courageous spirit-in us and in others

long on risking and short on fear and timidity

We pray for an honest spirit-in us and in others

long on acceptance and short on shame

We pray for a generous spirit-in us and in others

long on compassion and short on holding back

We pray for a peace-making spirit-in us and in others

long on seeking relationship and short on revenge

We pray for a spirit of holiness-in us and in others

recognizing the holy in others,

and looking beyond their shortcomings

We pray for a spirited community of wholeness in San Francisco

long on loving and justice

and short on self-interest and greed.

Together we pray for our city.

Together we yearn for new spirit.



הדור הבא

## The Next Generation Sherith Israel Religious School

### Our First Grade Prayer

Blessed are you Adonai our G-d,

Ruler of the Universe,

You help us feel brave and watch out for us

G-d speaks all languages.

Gives us food and water,

Peace and quiet,

Rain,

Our moms and dads.

We hope to always love ourselves and others

And if we get hurt that someone will help us

We will continue to do our homework

Be kind to each other, our friends and sisters and brothers...

We like all the world and want no wars.

We are thankful for the sun, grass,

Flowers, lizards, trees, bushes, dirt,

Babies, rocks, animals and G-d!

Written by Michele Kahn's First Grade  
Congregation Sherith Israel

Interfaith Breakfast Prayer - November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Margot Campbell Gross  
Minister Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

O, Holy One.

Beautiful, and fragile, like a sea shell,

The city of San Francisco lives in uneasy balance.

Elegant houses and grand public buildings rise up like great cliffs,

While people who are homeless drift around their doorways.

The sparkling surf and rainbow flags flutter in the breeze,

A spirit of freedom surges up against the conservation beach  
of store keepers, service workers, home owners

All who resist change, who we need to maintain the shore-line.

On this beach there are families whose parents came from  
Russia, Africa, South America, Asia, Ireland....

And people from around the world continue to arrive.

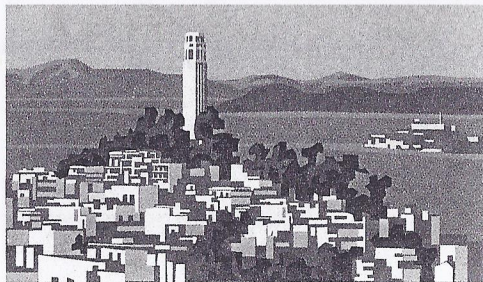
We are a global community, learning to live together.

We are different religions learning to worship together.

Help unite us, O God, in common Purpose:

To seek justice and equal opportunity for all your people,

And. To give thanks to You for this beloved city which we call home.



**O**ur Father, our God, we have come another year at this fourth annual interfaith prayer breakfast, to thank you for keeping, and protecting the Mayor and all for another year. Dear God, bless the children and youth as they play in the streets and playgrounds. Dear God bless our nation and direct the leader in the way that is pleasing to you.

We need you dear God as never before, Thank you for every thing you have done and every thing you are going to do. Bless all pastors and churches that are open in your name.

Bless all the leaders of this Prayer Breakfast. These favors we ask in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Amen.

Lue Martin  
Macedonia Baptist Church

**I Am Love**

**In my essence lies a force to co-create with the Divine  
Therefore I succeed in all that I attempt  
I respect and hold sacred all of creation because we are one  
I Am One with the Universal presence  
I Am One with the Divine that resides in  
and creates through me  
The Omnipresent, Omniscient force of Life  
The Holy, The Divine  
The Breath of life  
The force that flows through me filling the core of my  
existence**

**The presence of Divine Love and Light  
The Love and Light that shelters me from the storms of pain  
and disease  
That comforts me in times of sorrow  
Providing me with unlimited abundance  
I Am overflowing with Pure Love and Light  
Love and Light woven with the strands of Harmony and  
peace**

**I Am at peace  
I Am peace**

**I Am perfect in the image of the Divine  
I Am Love and Light and Laughter**

**I Am Love**

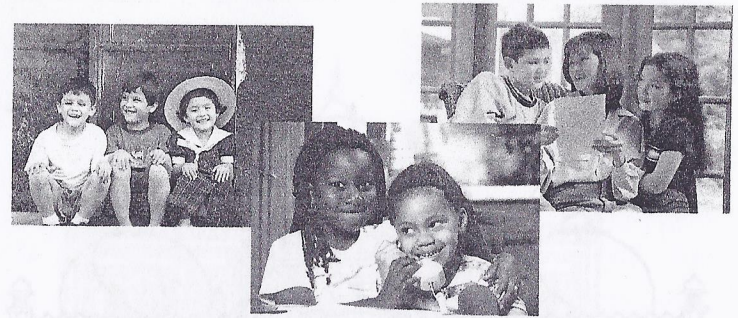
**I Am Love**

**I Am Love**

**The Creator and I are One  
And so it is  
Blessed be**

Addai L. Watson

First Unitarian Universalist Church



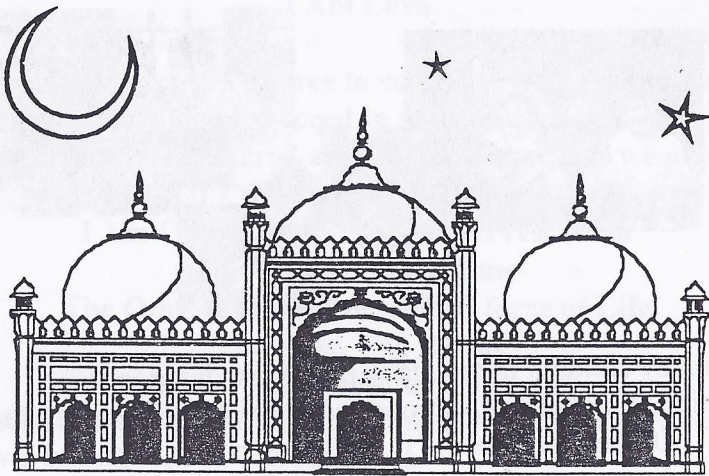
**Too many children in too many places are dying today!  
Sanctioned by policies, actions and inaction, words and silence  
Of too many people in too many places, high and low, far  
And very near.**

**Grant, O Lover of Children and Ever Pregnant Presence,  
An enlargement of our compromised hearts and lives  
To hold sacred all the children of the earth  
And their times of play and dreams**

**Birth within us audacious courage and heightened resolve,  
To become your harbingers of compassion  
Fashioning from the stench of the present  
The sweet spirit of resurrected future.**

**Unto thee, O God of each moment and of faithful intimacy,  
We utter these longings from places deep within  
Hear our prayer  
And invite us unto your peace.**

**Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake  
The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples**



## THE CITY

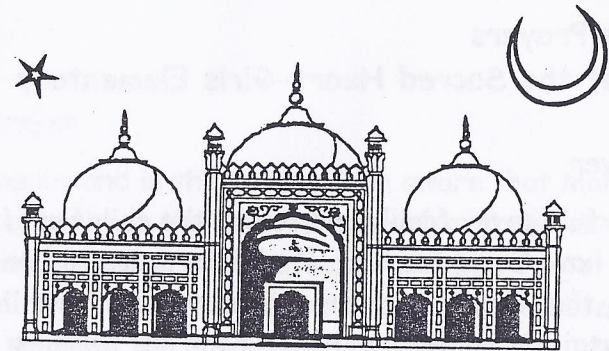
Quran Surah/Chapter 90

(Revealed when Prophet Muhammad, the refugee, returns triumphantly to liberate the City of his birth, Mecca from forces of oppression, year 630 C.E.)

*“I call you to be a Witness over this city, you have now achieved freedom. Your relationship with this city shall be that of a Child and Parent. We have created you to work hard and rebuild this City.*

*They (oppressors) thought they were the most powerful. They bragged about their connections and wealth. They thought none could defeat them.*

*Were we not the one to gift all with various faculties, faculties of sight, intelligence and speech? And did we not showed you The Criteria of Right and Wrong?*



*Nevertheless, you take the easy way out, you do not want to struggle. You do not take the task of rebuilding. Is it because it is Hard? What will explain to you what your Task is ?*

*It is to free the bondsman  
To feed those who have faced disasters  
To Adopt the Orphans  
And to help the indigents*

*If you work on these Tasks, then will you be counted as Believers because you would have exemplified patience, self-restraint, fairness and compassion.*

*These will be the people who will prosper  
And they will be the people of the Right Criteria  
As for those who reject Our Signs  
They will be the people of the Wrong Criteria  
And they will be held accountable on the Judgment Day”*

Iftekhar A. Hai  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

## Children's Prayers

### Schools of the Sacred Heart-Girls Elementary

#### Hindu Prayer

I am thankful for my family and for all the children of the world who have loving families. My family prays to Ganesh who is the god, that we believe, removes obstacles in our lives. On this Thanksgiving, as we are thankful for our families, we also pray for all those children in our world, who do not have families to love and care for them. May the many obstacles they have to living in a secure and caring home be removed so that they too can be grateful and be cared for in a peaceful and safe place.

#### Buddhist Prayer

The Buddhist thoughts are filled with appreciation for the beauties of Nature. The lotus flower is our symbol and it is the sign of beauty and how something so beautiful can grow out of muddy waters. That symbol inspires us to be grateful for all the beauties of nature and to be more aware of the good that comes even when waters are muddy.

#### Jewish Prayer

In the Jewish tradition we acknowledge God as the creator of our universe. Today we thank God for all that he provides for us everyday of our lives. We are so blessed in this country and we have such a rich harvest to feed our nation. Let us be mindful today of those who do not have an abundance of harvests. In our gratitude, for all that we have, let us help provide for those who are hungry.

#### Muslim Prayer

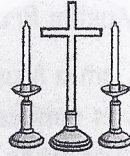
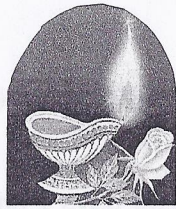
I am a Muslim and in these days I am aware that Mohammed was concerned that the poor be cared for. Today as we thank Allah for all of our blessings, let us not forget those who are suffering from want and from lack of shelter. May we learn to share the good things of this world so that all may have more gratitude in their hearts.

#### Christian Prayer

Jesus told the story about the 10 who had received many blessings, but only one person came back to say thank you. Today as we say thank you to God for the many blessings that we have received, may we not just be thankful today, but everyday of our lives. Let the "thank you" we say for the little and big gifts we receive from others, in this wonderful city of San Francisco, make their day a bit brighter. .

God thank you for being you and blessings us each day of our lives. Remember too all those who helped in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania, as our nation owes them special thanks on this Thanksgiving.





### Prayer of Light

There is a lot of light coming to us from God;  
 a light which is not of a physical nature.  
 It is spiritual light, as in 'enlightenment'.  
 It touches our intellect, opening a lock on our awareness.  
 And we find ourselves again receptive to all of God's  
 powers like love and peace.

These again start filling the soul.  
 And the feeling is of having found  
 something precious that had  
 somehow been lost.

May God's light influence my thoughts.

Let me remember there is goodness in this world.

May I have faith in the Light of Goodness.

May that Seed grow in our hearts  
 and dispel the darkness.

For darkness has no source.

It is simply absent of light.



~ Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization



### PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS

OM TAT SAT SHREE NARAYAN TU, PURUSHOTTAM GURU TU.  
 SIDDHA BUDDHA TU, SKANDA VINAYAK SAVITAPAVAK TU.  
 BRAHMA MAZDA TU, YEHAVA SHAKTI TU, ISHUPITA PRABHU TU.  
 RUDRA VISHNU TU, RAM KRISHNA TU, RAHIM TAO TU.  
 VASUDEV KO VISHWARUP TU, CHIDANANDA HARI TU.  
 ADVITIYA TU, AKAL NIRBHAY ATMALING SHIVA TU.

~ HINDU BHAJAN

(Meaning in English)

YOU ARE THE TRUE NARAYAN, YOU ARE THE BEST AMONG ALL.

YOU ARE ATTAINED FORM OF BUDDHA,  
 YOU ARE THE OBSTACLE-REMOVER, YOU ARE THE PURIFIER.

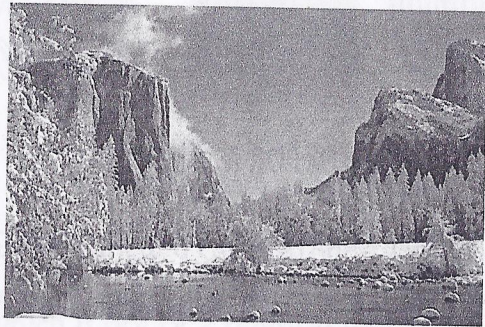
YOU ARE THE OWNER OF BRAHMA-ELEMENT, YOU ARE THE POWER OF  
 JEHOVA, YOU ARE FATHER CHRIST.

YOU ARE LORD VISHNU, YOU ARE RAM & KRISHNA,  
 YOU ARE THE LORD OF THE POOR.

YOU ARE VASUDEVA, YOU ARE THE OWNER OF THE WHOLE WORLD, YOU  
 ARE THE BESTOWER OF ETERNAL JOY.

YOU ARE UNIQUE, YOU ARE THE LORD OF TIME, YOU ARE THE FEARLESS  
 ONE – SUPREME SOUL SHIVA





### Thanksgiving Prayer

American Indian

Great and Eternal Mystery of Life, Creator of All Things, I give thanks for the beauty You put in every single one of Your creations. I am grateful that You did not fail in making every stone, plant, creature, and human being a perfect and whole part of the Sacred Hoop. I am grateful that You have allowed me to see the strength and beauty of All My Relations.

My humble request is that all of the Children of Earth will learn to see the same perfection in themselves. May none of Your human children doubt or question Your wisdom, grace, and sense of wholeness in giving all of Creation a right to be living extensions of Your perfect love.

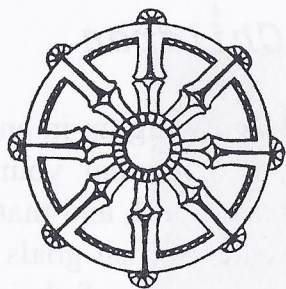
## *Prayer For Youth & Children*

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; and give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 為青年和兒童禱告

上帝我們的天父，親眼看見主的兒女們在這混亂不安的世界中成長：求主使他們得見主的道路，比世界的道路更能給他們更豐富的生命，跟從主更甚於追求自私的目標。求主幫助他們，不將失敗看作他們價值的衡量，而是重新開始的機會。賜他們力量持守他們對主的信心，保守他們，在主的造化中喜樂而富有朝氣；又求主賜我們安撫的力量和忍耐的智慧，我們就能善養兒女，使他們愛慕一切至聖美善的事，效法我們救主耶穌基督的榜樣。這都是靠著我們的主耶穌基督。阿們。

This Prayer is submitted by The Chinese Christian Union of San Francisco



### Traditional Buddhist Blessing and Healing Chant

Just as the soft rains fill the streams,  
pour into the rivers and join together in the oceans,  
so may the power of every moment of your goodness  
flow forth to awaken and heal all beings,  
Those here now, those gone before, those yet to come.

By the power of every moment of your goodness  
May your heart's wishes be soon fulfill  
as completely shining as the bright full moon,  
as magically as by a wish-fulfilling gem.

By the power of every moment of your goodness  
May all dangers be averted and all disease be gone.  
May no obstacle come across your way.  
May you enjoy fulfillment and long life.

For all in whose heart dwells respect,  
who follow the wisdom and compassion, of the Way,  
May your life prosper in the four blessings  
of old age, beauty, happiness and strength.

### Prayer of Hope for the Future

The Hebrew Scripture tells the story of Noah. And in that story is a clear message: God promises nevermore to destroy the earth and sends a sign by hanging a rainbow in the sky as reassurance. The corresponding prophetic reading this week, from Isaiah Ch. 54, says: For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, Saith the Lord that hath compassion on thee.

These words give us hope that the world will continue to exist beyond our sojourn here. And yet we cannot be complacent and expect God to do it all. We can pray for healing, but we must act to make it a reality. As Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav said, "*One should always say: the world was created for my sake*". Therefore each person must do his or her share to improve it and leave it a little better for its subsequent inhabitants.

And so we pray as if everything depended on God, and act as if everything depended on us. And today we pray with hope that the future will bring a complete healing, r'fuah shleimah, to all those whose lives are challenged by pain and suffering. We beseech You now: Dear God:

Grant us health enough to perform our daily tasks.

Wealth enough to answer our needs,

Compassion enough to feel the needs of others,

Give us strength enough to recognize our faults

Wisdom enough to understand how to serve You

Loyalty enough to discharge our obligations.

Give us courage enough to be true to the best within us

Charity enough to see the best in others.

Give us patience enough not to become discouraged.

Hope enough to overcome all fears for the future

And faith enough to feel your presence.

Fulfill your promise as in the ancient covenant with Noah and his descendants: *that you would nevermore destroy the earth*. Then can we have complete trust that our work will not be in vain, and continue on our path towards tikkun olam, the repairing of this broken world. Amen.

## **Song: We Are Drops**

**Lead by Ayana Douglas**

[Call & response song]

We are drops, of one ocean,  
We are waves, of one sea,  
Come and join us

**In our quest for unity,  
It's a way of life for you and me.**

We are flowers, of one garden,  
We are leaves, of one tree,  
Come and join us

**In our quest for unity,  
It's a way of life for you and me.**

All the world, is one country  
Man is one, can't you see,  
Come and join us

**In our quest for unity,  
It's a way of life for you and me.**

We are drops of one ocean,  
We are waves of one sea,  
Come and join us

**In our quest for unity,  
It's a way of life for you and me**

~ Baha'I Faith

## **Blessed Is the Spot**

Blessed is the spot, and the house,  
And the place, and the city,  
And the heart, and the mountain,  
And the refuge, and the cave,  
And the valley, and the land,  
And the sea, and the island,  
And the meadow where mention  
Of God hath been made, and His  
Praise glorified.

Bahá'u'lláh - The Bahá'í Faith