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

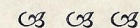
The Honorable Willie L. Brown, Mayor  
San Francisco, California

*"Moving On  
And Reaching Out  
to our Children and Youth"*



Photograph by Nia Blackston  
San Francisco's Juvenile Hall, Website: Girls in the Hall

Hosted by:  
**SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL**



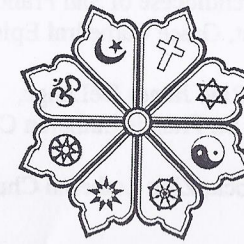
**Prayers from Faith-Communities in the City**



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**

**"Moving On And Reaching Out  
to our Children and Youth"**

A Program of the  
**SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL**



*Celebrating our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions,  
bringing people together to build understanding  
and serve our community*

**Tuesday, November 26, 2002, 6:30 a.m.**

**Cathedral Hill Hotel**

**San Francisco**

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**Co-Chairs: Rev. Douglass Fitch**  
Glide Memorial United Methodist Church

**Rabbi Sydney Mintz**  
Congregation Emanu-El



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## Prayers from Faith-Communities in the City



I dream...

I believe...

I hope...

I am a child.

To me, nothing is impossible.



## INVOCATION

from the *Book of Runes*  
by Ralph Blume

God within me, God without  
How could I ever be in doubt.  
There is no place that I may go,  
And there not see God's face not know.

I am God's vision and God's ears,  
So through the harvest of my years,  
I am the sower and the sown,  
God's self unfolding and God's own.



Dear God,

Different colors, different creeds, and different races,  
Different people, different views, and different places.

Different aspects where we find our happiness,  
San Francisco's rainbow, a symbol of our differences.

Each color stands out, different from the rest,  
But its true beauty comes from its togetherness.

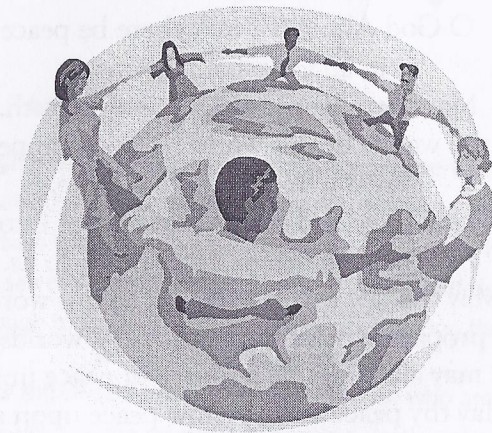
A city which embraces our individuality,  
Freedom to think and be what we want to be.

Let every generation come to understand,  
That we are equal: short, tall, black, white,  
woman or man.

Remind the leaders of the future that the one true way to live in  
harmony, is to be united by our diversity.

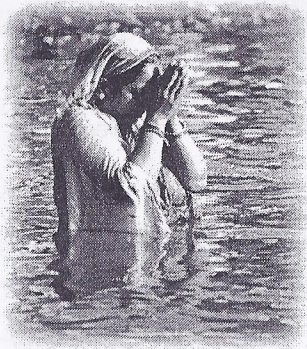
Tell every woman, man, boy, and girl,  
To celebrate all people, for we are the rainbow of the world.

Amen.



Written by  
Krissy Valenteros  
Sign Language: Charnella Palaby & Shari Scales  
Mercy High School, San Francisco





## HINDU PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, lead us from the unreal to the real.  
O God, lead us from the darkness to the light.  
Lead us from death unto immortality.

Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.  
Peace, Peace, Peace unto all.

O God Almighty, may there be peace  
in all Celestial Regions.  
May there be peace also on this earth.  
May the waters of this world be always appeasing.  
May the herbs be wholesome.  
May the trees and plants bring peace into all;  
And may all beings bring peace to us.  
May the law that governs all in this world  
propagate peace throughout all worlds;  
And may all things be a source of peace unto us.  
May thy peace itself bestow peace upon all,  
And may that peace come to me also.

O God, lead us from the unreal to the real.

## Compassion Chant

Let us *listen* with the ear of the Oneness who is the source of  
all the sounds of compassion,  
Let us *speak* with the tongue of the Oneness who is the source  
of all the words of compassion,  
Let us *touch* with the arms of the Oneness who is the source  
of all the embraces of compassion,  
Let us *see* with the eyes of the Oneness who is the source of  
all the visions of compassion,  
Let us *inhale* with the nostrils of the Oneness who is the  
source of all the fragrances of compassion,  
Let us *savor* with the taste buds of the Oneness who is the  
source of all the flavors of compassion,

To listen, speak, touch, see, inhale,  
and savor with the

Oneness

who

is

the

source

of

the many

is

to

give

compassion

two ears, a tongue,

two arms, two eyes,

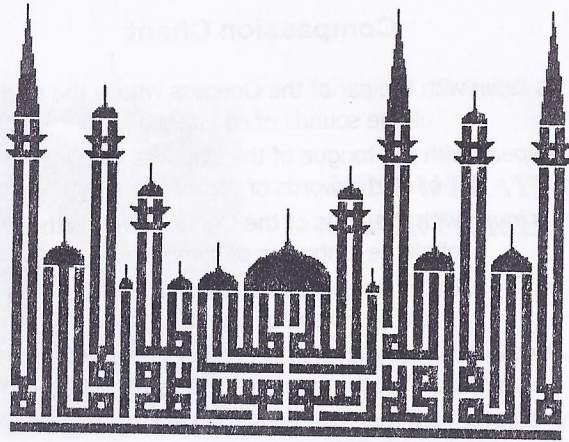
two nostrils, and two thousand tastebuds



enough to *hear* the uncried tears among those who hurt,  
enough to *speak* the unspoken words among those who suffer in silence,  
enough to *touch* the untouchables among those who are HIV infected,  
enough to *see* the unseen among those who are rendered invisible,  
enough to *inhale* the fragrance of grief among those  
who survive and remember,  
enough to *savor* the sweetness of love *among* those who are most unloved,  
A love which is the source, journey and destiny of all who  
take the road of compassion.

-Chris Sandováł-  
Director, Multicultural AIDS Resource Center of California



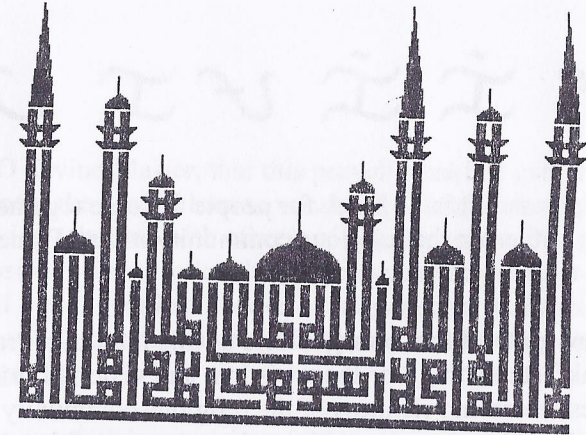


### Islamic Prayer for All

*O' People We have made you from a single soul (Adam & Eve), male and female and have made you into nations and tribes so that you may come to know one another, not to despise each other, and the best among you are those who are most God conscious, with this revelation a prayer for the welfare of all humanity is made.*

*"Our God, our Creator, our Sustainer, our Maintainer, who possesses Love, Compassion and Mercy bring peace to your people by showing us how to love one's enemy. Do not lay on us a burden greater than our capacity to bear. Open our hearts and minds and teach us how to Love and Care for each other in times of pain, suffering and illness. Give us courage to embrace our enemies, forgive them and help us to reconcile with them. Let patience, perseverance and prayer be our means of reaching your highest ideals.*

*Give us the wisdom and compassion to undo the damage that we have done to our fellow human beings and to our mother earth that sustains us. Create in us a sense of family – of brotherhood and sisterhood with those people whom we have never met or known. Let not the unknown to us be the cause of distrust or injustice to anyone.*



*Create in us bonds of genuine friendship, where we can uphold each other's rights and stand up for justice, even if we are to be witness against ourselves, our children and against our parents. Let not nationalism of one nation be the cause of injustice to any nation. Let not the crimes of few be associated with all who profess that faith. Give us the courage to stand up for righteousness with the people who are rich and powerful who possess a compassionate and loving heart to work for the poor, destitute, hungry and the homeless of this city. Give us family values and a sense of responsibility to fight the crime and drug abuse that is rampaging our youths and neighborhoods.*

*Give spiritual guidance and blessings to all the people who have assembled here today, as Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and people of other faiths. Our Lord shows us how to work for common good for all the people of this great city and country. Amen.*

*Iftekhhar A. Hai  
Interfaith Relations  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance*



U I I U I U

How pleasant it is, O Lord, for people to come together in unity; gathering the religious community of San Francisco to work together for a common good.

We are grateful for the organizers of this Interfaith Prayer Breakfast meeting, for their wisdom and vision of bringing the resources and richness of the religious community to be tapped and harnessed to address the concerns of the children and youth whose needs are otherwise neglected by the bigger community.

We appreciate with gratitude, the government of San Francisco, the Mayor in particular, for giving a time to hear and pray with us about the needs and problems of the city.

We pray, O Lord, for the empowering of your Spirit hovering around and among us providing us with wisdom and ideas, visions and plan of actions as we dealt with issues affecting the city dwellers to the end that:

- ✿ Through the spirit of *bayanihan* (mutual helping), *ugnayan* (networking) and *pagsasamahan* (cooperative endeavor) we can make a difference to the lives and plight of the city people, the children and youth in particular;
- ✿ Through *paglilingkod* (service) and *pagmamalasakit* (care) we could alleviate if not totally eradicate poverty among city populace, and to address needs of housing and shelter, justice and peace, hunger and economic oppression, fear and depression prevalent in the city;
- ✿ Through love and compassion, we will learn to sacrifice for the sake of others; develop an attitude of giving and sharing, and sensitive to the needs of our neighbors regardless of age, color, race and gender.

Grant, O Divine Master, that this prayer breakfast gathering, bring about the best of human values of *pakikipagkapwa* (dignifying relations with others) of *pagkamakatao* (having compassion towards fellow human beings) to enrich the spiritual life of people and develop *magandang asal* (good manners and right conduct) and *mabuhay na marangal* (to live with dignity).

Make every participant an instrument of your peace, and every person a vehicle of your unconditional love that healing may begin and take place in our society.

To God who secludes no one and who loves every one, we pray.

Amen.

Rev. Estan J. Cueto  
President National Association of  
Filipino- American United Methodist and  
Pastor of Geneva Avenue UMC  
San Francisco, CA

U UB UB U ~



## For Social Justice and In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 為社會正義和止息爭執禱告

上帝阿，主曾經使我們在共同生活中連繫在一起。當我們為正義和真理奮鬥時，求主幫助我們彼此面對，不存怨恨和惡毒的心，以互諒互敬的精神一起工作；又求主降下聖潔和賜生命的聖靈，感動每個人的心，拆除造成我們分裂的障礙，使懷疑消失，憎恨止息；叫我們的分裂得醫治，我們才能夠在公義與和平裏生活；這都是靠著我們的主耶穌基督。阿們。

Submit by The Chinese Christian Union of San Francisco

三藩市基督教聯會提供

## Infinite Gratitude

Dear Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Principle Parent of the Universe.  
We would like to express our infinite gratitude to you for the limitless blessings we receive for all the functions of the earth and universe. We acknowledge the ways of nature and realize  
Your unconditional love and compassion.

We thank you for the bright sun that provides us warmth and light.  
We thank you for Mother Earth for working together within our universe to allow and sustain all life equally, as one family under the sun.

With the great support from our parents and ancestors, we are allowed to partake in the miracle of life itself.

We express our infinite  
gratitude for all our physical functions.  
We especially appreciate the great workings of our heart, which continues to beat even when we are unaware and deeply asleep.  
We also appreciate our arms and legs, which allow us to move about freely, while working together with all the other parts of our body.

Yet, even though we have received so many blessings and favors from the great universe, we may still be taking things for granted. In the past, and present, we may have caused troubles for others unknowingly. Please forgive us and purify our body, mind and spirit so that we can embrace a life of new hope and have good dreams for our future world.

We respect all spiritual leaders, faith traditions and different cultures in the world.

Let us draw on their great wisdoms, and universal understandings in order to build a truly peaceful world.  
Let us go beyond borders with a heart of patience, humbleness and deep compassion so that we can accomplish our important tasks for our future generations.  
On this day, this very moment, pray.

By Rev. Masato Kawahatsu  
Senior Minister of  
Konko Church of San Francisco

生神 金光大神  
天地 金乃神 祈願  
あかりの和智をまき  
今月今日てまのあひ



Native American Sioux Indian prayer  
Submitted by Lois Peacock

O Divine Gift-giver, I stand beneath the endless waterfall of your abundant gifts to me.

I thank you especially for the blessing of life, the most precious of all your gifts to me.

I thank you, Ever-generous One, for clothing to wear, for food and drink to nourish my body, for all the talents and skill that you have bestowed upon me.

I thank you for the many joys of my life, for family and friends, for work that gives to me a sense of purpose and invests my life with meaning.

I thank you as well for all the sufferings and trials of my life, which are also gifts and which together with my mistakes are among my most important teachers.

Grant that I may never greet a new day without the awareness of some gift for which to give you thanks.

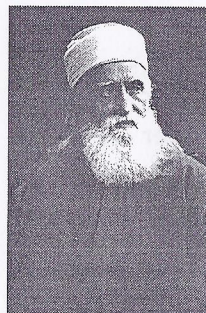
And may constant thanksgiving be my song of perpetual praise to you.

O thou forgiving God! These servants are turning to Thy kingdom and seeking Thy grace and bounty. O God! Make their hearts good and pure in order that they may become worthy of Thy love. Purify and sanctify the spirits that the light of the Sun of Reality may shine upon them. Purify and sanctify the eyes that they may perceive Thy light. Purify and sanctify the ears in order that they may hear the call of Thy kingdom.

O Lord! Verily, we are weak, but Thou art mighty. Verily, we are poor, but Thou art rich. We are the seekers, and Thou art the One sought. O Lord! Have compassion upon us and forgive us; bestow upon us such capacity and receptiveness that we may be worthy of Thy favors and become attracted to Thy kingdom, that we may drink deep of the water of life, may be enkindled by the fire of Thy love, and be resuscitated through the breaths of the Holy Spirit in this radiant century.

O God, my God! Cast upon this gathering the glances of Thy loving-kindness. Keep safe each and all in Thy custody and under Thy protection. Send down upon these souls Thy heavenly blessings. Immerse them in the ocean of Thy mercy, and quicken them through the breaths of the Holy Spirit.

O Lord! Bestow Thy gracious aid and confirmation upon this just government. This country lieth beneath the sheltering shadow of Thy protection, and this people is in Thy service. O Lord! Confer upon them Thy heavenly bounty and render the outpourings of Thy grace and favor copious and abundant. Suffer this esteemed nation to be held in honor, and enable it to be admitted into Thy kingdom.



Thou art the Powerful, the Omnipotent, the Merciful, and Thou art the Generous, the Beneficent, the Lord of grace abounding.

'Abdu'l-Bahá - *The Bahá'í Writings*





**Creature Comforts**  
(A Prayer)

My country enslaved me  
I Thank the Creator for Liberation

My country oppressed me  
Thanks Creator for compassion

My country molested me  
God cleansed me from all unsavory attacks

My country profiles my children  
The Lord wipes away their fears

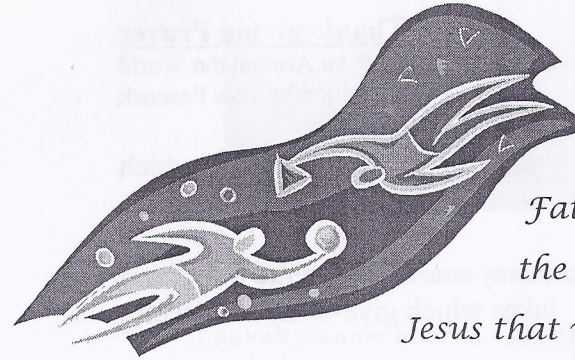
My country boasts of greatness  
The Prince of Peace makes no such claim

My country searches for evildoers to destroy  
The Almighty seeks to save

God have mercy on my country  
Blessed be He with no disrespect for she

Amen

Dr. Elliott C. Osborne  
7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church  
November 2002



*Father, It is in  
the Name of*

*Jesus that we humbly*

*come together as a community  
of believers wholly trusting and  
depending upon you.*

*As we are moving in your Word and  
reaching out let us offer healing and help  
to the helpless with hope for the hopeless.*

*Help us to be the true models of light  
shining forth in the darkness of the city.*

*As we display the love and  
knowledge of God to our lost, and poor let  
us continue with pure hearts like  
an ever-flowing river of life.*

*Rev. Carolyn Ransom-Scott  
Urban Ministries  
Reader: Ayana Douglas*



### A Thanksgiving Prayer

From Earth Prayers from Around the World  
submitted by Lois Peacock

We give-away our thanks to the earth which  
gives us our home.

We give-away our thanks to the rivers and  
lakes which give-away their water

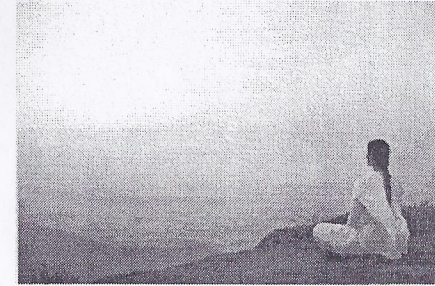
We give-away our thanks to the trees which  
give-away fruit and nuts.

We give-away our thanks to the wind which  
brings rain to water the plants.

We give-away our thanks to the sun who  
gives-away warmth and light.

All beings on earth: the trees, the animals,  
the wind and the rivers give-away to one  
another so all is in balance.

We give-away our promise to begin to learn  
how to stay in balance with all the earth.



### CENTERED AND ALIGNED

I have to know how to take His hand  
and place it on my heart and head.

I will pay complete attention to the quality of my thoughts  
and feelings, and ground myself  
in my identity as an eternal spiritual being.

This fills me with the qualities of my original divinity:  
peace, love, bliss and might.

Feeling God's hand on both my head and heart  
allows me to stay completely centered  
and aligned with my highest self.

Even in the midst of total chaos – inner or outer –  
I am able to remain responsible  
for every thought, word and action.

The ability to act from such an elevated state of  
awareness, even in difficult situations, is proof  
that I am making the right efforts.

Let me not blame others and consider them the cause of my  
distress and unhappiness this would be carelessness.  
This would only lead to disheartenment.

Let me keep the heart and mind clear, that is honest.  
Let me remain grateful and thankful.

Then in my efforts I will see real success.

Dadi Janki  
Co-Administrative Head  
Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University