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Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast 2003

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Iftekhar Hai, United Muslims of America

Rabbi Pamela Frydman Baugh, Or Shalom Jewish

Community

Rita R. Semel, Executive Vice-Chair, SFIC

Susan Griffin, Griffin & Sullivan

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Interfaith Prayer Book compiled and assembled by,

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I dream...

I believe...

I hope...

I am a child.

To me, nothing is impossible.

Sixth Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

**Tuesday, December 2, 2003, 7 a.m.
Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco**

A Program of the San Francisco Interfaith Council

- | | |
|--|---|
| Words of Welcome | Rev. Alan Jones
Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council |
| Opening Prayer: | Dan Daniels
Third Baptist Church |
| The Lord's Prayer | Sung by: Patricia Greenleaf James
Music Director, New Liberation
Presbyterian Church |
| Buffet Breakfast | |
| Prayers | Students from Sacred Heart High School |
| Vaishnava Jana To
"He is a true devotee"
(Indian Bhajan/
Devotional Song) | Sung by: Vivek Anand
Brahma Kumaris |
| Honoring:
Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Arlene Ackerman | Presented by:
Rev. Harry Chuck & Rita R. Semel |
| Prayers for the City | Rev. Margot Campbell-Gross, Unitarian Universalist Church
Iftexhar Hai, United Muslims of America
Rabbi Eric Weiss, Bay Area Jewish Healing Center
Sister Chandru Desai, Brahma Kumaris
Rev. Franco Kwan, Chinese Christian Union of SF |
| I Need You | Sung By: Patricia Greenleaf James |
| Closing Prayer | Rabbi Stephen Pearce
Congregation Emanu-El |

SPECIAL THANKS

Alma Lorraine Angeles, Flowers

Doris Munsterman, San Francisco Archdiocese

Sacred Heart High School: Samanhtha Braman, Gina Cargas,
Noelle Martinez, Sabrina Mills, Julianna Kapjian-Pitt, Alysso
Shea, Nora Trice

Mario Reyes, Brahma Kumaris, Music & Sound

Patricia Greenleaf James, Music Director, New Liberation
Presbyterian Church

Vivek Anand, Brahma Kumaris

SFIC Introductory Statement

spoken before each monthly meeting:

This is an interfaith community. Whatever our individual belief may be, it can be freely expressed here with no apologies. If we are invited to offer a prayer in this setting, it should be offered according to the tradition with which we identify. If we are invited to speak on a subject from the perspective of our tradition, we are free to do so without fear of offending those who come from another tradition. We come together as people of faith to learn from each other that we might better understand the multiplicity of faith traditions in our city and in our world.

Prayer for the Interfaith Breakfast

December 2nd 2003

From Margot Campbell Gross
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

In the many names of all that is holy, we gather together to give thanks.

Thanks that we, from many different religious traditions, gladly and freely come together to share table fellowship this morning. It is a blessing.

We pray for those who are divided one from another, separated by their beliefs in different religious traditions. May they learn to become healers and ambassadors of peace.

We pray that each of us may become a peacemaker, willing to listen respectfully to different voices, always mindful of the prophet's charge to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

We give thanks for the bounty of this breakfast, may it nourish our bodies to do the work of justice in the world.

We give thanks for all those who labored in the fields and orchards to grow the crops. We give thanks for all who transported the produce to market, and we give thanks for all who work in the markets which sell us our food. We give thanks for those who serve us, and who will clean up after us. Many people's labor was expended to feed us this morning.

Even as we enjoy our breakfast, let us never forget the many who are hungry this morning, as well as those who are sick, especially all those affected by AIDS. Let us also remember all those who are homeless, those suffering from violence and conflict, and those who are refugees.

We, gathered here this morning, are blest. May we open our hearts in gratitude for the bounty of this germinating, sprouting, growing, ripening, harvest. This gift, this grace.

Blessed be, Amen

I AM IN MY TENT

I don't need to pitch my tent
next to yours
to see if yours is better
if the stakes are driven firmly
or the ropes tied securely
or the walls much thicker
with threads to the count
Will the rain come through the top
the desert winds cause doubt?
And our prayer rugs do they compare
When I kneel I see
the washed geometry
of a hundred years
Yours may be new
But our doors are hung
with purple, pink and coral
yellow, mauve, turquoise, gold and blue
and our flags are streaming
shouting signals - waving
I am in my tent and so are you

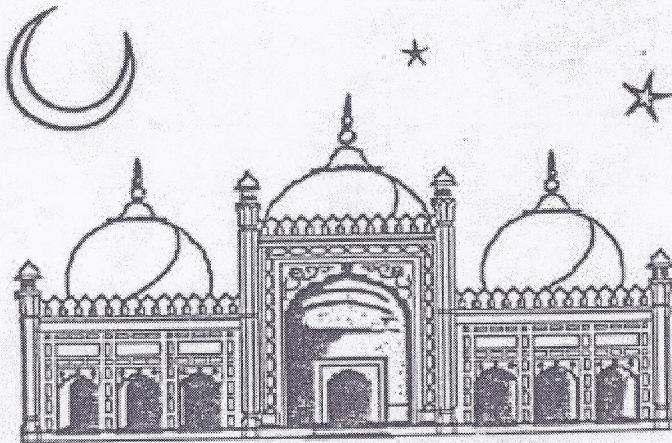
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In Matthew 18: 1-5, The King James Version of the *Bible* tells us:

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this is the blessing we pray for the City of San Francisco: that we will love the children, that we will support the Mayor and his office in the work he does on behalf of the children, that we will support the schools in their important work of educating our children, that we will work together to make this community a thriving place for children and, therefore, for all of us.



Ideal City

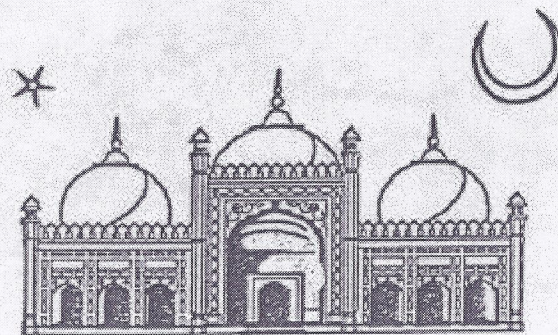
Chapter 90- The Quran

(This verse revealed when Prophet Mohammed, once a refugee
Returns to liberate Mecca, the City of his birth)

*"I call upon you to be a witness over this city, now that
You have freedom. Your relationship with this city shall
Be that of a Parent and a Child. We have created you
To work hard and rebuild this city.*

*The oppressors thought they were the most powerful.
They used their wealth and power and bragged
About their influence.*

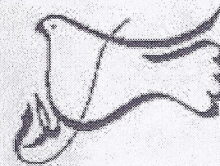
*Did you forget that We gave you life and further
We gifted you with intelligence and other faculties.
We showed you the Criteria of Right and Wrong.*



*Nevertheless, you take the easy way and refuse to be righteous
How can we explain to you what are your duties*

*It is to free people held in captivity of all kinds
To feed and care for the hungry and sick ones
To adopt Orphans
And to help those in needs*

*If you work on these tasks then you will be counted
As Believers and will be people of the Right Order
As for those who reject Our Signs
They will be of the Wrong Order
And they will be held accountable on the Judgment Day*



*Allah you are peace, through you flows Peace. Give All of us
Peace Not only in this life but also in the hereafter. Amen.*

By
Iftakhar A. Hai
Director of Interfaith Relations
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance, SF, CA.

Holy One of Blessing:

We gather from many different neighborhoods in our common love for our precious city. Her rolling hills, warm valleys, sea swept coast, and flatlands reflect the work of Your blessed creation. We know that each of us is uniquely created in Your image and so we pray that the work of our hands and that the celebration of our hearts continue to build a culture of understanding and compassion in our offices, our schools, our libraries, our museums, theaters, and all institutions in which we learn from one another the vast diversity of our beloved San Francisco. May all those who dedicate themselves to public service know the satisfaction of dedicating their lives to countless thankful citizens who call this city by the Bay home.

- Rabbi Eric Weiss, Bay Area Jewish Healing Center

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；又求主賜我們安詳的力量和忍耐的智慧，我們就能撫養兒女，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

NO RELIGION IS AN ISLAND

O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy great purpose. May they follow Thy commandments and abide in Thy law. Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee. O God! Leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of Thy knowledge, and cheer their hearts by Thy love. Verily, Thou art their Helper and their Lord.

Bahá'u'lláh

¡Oh mi Dios, oh mi Dios! Une los corazones de tus siervos y revélales tu gran propósito. Que sigan tus mandamientos y permanezcan en tu ley. Ayúdales, oh Dios, en sus esfuerzos y confíéreles fuerza para servirte. ¡Oh Dios! No los abandones a sí mismos, sino guía sus pasos con la luz de tu conocimiento y alegra sus corazones con tu amor. Verdaderamente Tú eres su Auxiliador y su Señor.

Bahá'u'lláh

Submitted by: Charleen Magzhi, SF Bahai Community

No religion is an island.

There is no monopoly on holiness.

We are companions of all who revere God.

We rejoice when the divine name is praised.

No religion is an island.

We share the kinship of humanity.

The capacity for compassion.

God's spirit rests upon all, Jew and Gentile,

Man and woman, in consonance with their deeds.

The creation of one Adam promotes peace.

No one can claim: My ancestry is nobler than yours.

There is no monopoly on holiness;

There is no truth without humility.

We are diverse in our devotion and commitment.

We must unite in working now for the sovereignty of God.

God is near to all who call upon Him in truth.

There can be disagreement without disrespect.

Let us help one another overcome hardness of heart,

Opening minds to the challenges of faith.

Should we hope for each other's failure?

Or should we pray for each other's welfare?

Let mutual concern replace remnants of mutual contempt

As we share the precarious position of being human.

Have we not all one Creator? Are we not all God's children?

Let us not be guided by ignorance or disdain.

Let lives of holiness illuminate all our paths.

The hand of God is extended to all who seek Her.

Let our deeds reflect that we share the image of God.

Let those who revere the Eternal speak on to another,

Leading everyone to acknowledge the splendor of God.

Written by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

*Edited by Rabbi Pamela Frydman Baugh of Or Shalom
Jewish Community*

In honor of our friends and colleagues Rita Semel

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