10th Annual Mayor's Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

Honoring Models of Hope: Recognizing Organizations Overcoming Violence

Tuesday, November 20, 2007, 7:00 a.m.
Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco

Sponsored by
San Francisco Interfaith Council
Celebrating our diverse faiths
and spiritual traditions,
the San Francisco Interfaith Council
brings people together
to build understanding
and serve our community.
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Honoring Models of Hope:
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PROGRAM

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Nancy Nielsen, Lutheran Social Services
Event Co-Chair

Call to Prayer
Imam Souleiman Ghali
Islamic Society of San Francisco

Blessing over the Meal
Cantor Rita Glassman,
Congregation Sherith Israel

Introduction of special guests
Rev. James DeLange, Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council

Keynote Address
Mayor Gavin Newsom

Introduction of Michael Pappas, Executive Director of
San Francisco Interfaith Council
Rita Semel, SFIC Executive Vice-Chair

Honoring Models of Hope
Awards Presented by Event Co-Chairs
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes and Nancy Nielsen

A Song of Hope
“Give Us this Day” by Edwin Hawkins
Soloist Andretta Lyles
Accompanied by
Kevan Peabody, Interim Director of Music, Third Baptist Church

Closing Prayer
The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of California
O Lord! Make this youth radiant, and confer Thy bounty upon this poor creature. Bestow upon him knowledge, grant him added strength at the break of every morn and guard him within the shelter of Thy protection so that he may be freed from error, may devote himself to the service of Thy Cause, may guide the wayward, lead the hapless, free the captives and awaken the heedless, that all may be blessed with Thy remembrance and praise. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

~ 'Abdu'l-Bahá

For this land so richly blessed, we raise our voice in joyous thanks. To these shores your children have come from many lands to seek liberty and new hope. All have been pilgrims to this western world. Though they did not always practice the justice they sought, here they found renewed purpose, increased strength, and the opportunity to outgrow old fears and superstitions. For our country, for its freedom promised and attained, the richness of its natural blessing, and the growing harmony of its citizens, we give humble thanks.

O God of justice and right, inspire all who dwell in our beloved land with loyalty to the ideals of its founders. Give us wisdom and strength to labor for its well-being, on the firm foundation of justice and truth. Fill us with the spirit of kindness, generosity, and peace, that this land may be a beacon-light to many peoples.

Rabbi Douglas Kahn
The Jewish Community Relations Council
In the serene stillness of my mind
I feel Your Divinity, O God, my Father.

You are Peace, Purity, Wisdom, Light
The radiance of Your Supreme Love
Touches the depths of my heart
And the purity within sparkles like a diamond.

Your Eternal Benevolence touches the universe
My eyes are opened to Your presence in each life
Your small, invisible miracles
Fill each scene with peace and adventure.

- Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization

God of love,
whose compassion never fails,
we bring you the sufferings of the world;
the needs of the homeless,
the cries of prisoners,
the pains of the sick and injured,
the sorrow of the bereaved,
the helplessness of the elderly and weak.

According to their needs and your great mercy,
strengthen and relieve them in Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Anselm of Canterbury, 1033-1109
Courtesy of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco
Most Reverend George H. Niederauer, Archbishop
Gratitude & Hope

Traditional 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 fulfilled
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.

~ BUDDHIST

who helps us distinguish light from dark, and right from wrong.

who gives us the ability to see.

who allows us to be free.

who fills the world with mountains, oceans, and trees.

who protects and provides for us.

who gives strength to those in need.

who awakens us to a brand new day.

who helps us connect to our spiritual selves.

who gives us the freedom to pray.

who gives us our Jewish heritage. (Mention your Religious tradition here)

who watches over Israel and all her inhabitants.

who allows us to pursue our dreams.

who gives us this day of Shabbat for rest and renewal.

Inspired by 5766-2006 Congregation Sherith Israel Confirmation Club
Thanksgiving Prayer

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.
We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.
We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.
We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.
Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.

Native American Iroquois Prayer

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 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 Iftikhar A. Hai
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance
Prayer for a Holy Heart

Lord, grant me a holy heart
    that sees always what is fine and pure
    and is not frightened at the sight of sin,
    but creates order wherever it goes.

Grant me a heart that knows nothing
    of boredom, weeping and sighing.

Let me not be too concerned
    with the bothersome thing
    I call “myself.”

Lord, give me a sense of humor
    and I will find happiness in life
    and profit for others.

Thomas More

Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the
    unreal to the Real.
Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.
Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.
Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.
Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace in
    celestial regions.

May there be peace on Earth.
May the waters be appeasing.
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees
    plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.
May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all
    through the world.
May all things be a source of peace to us.
And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on all
    and may that peace come to me also.
The Daily Prayer

"Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

From the Manual of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist by Mary Baker Eddy
Dear Lord God,

When I asked to see your face you whispered soft and low, “Look around the world and you will see me there. I am in all creation — your friends, your enemies, the sick, the lonely, the dying, the homeless, the ocean, the Bay, the streets of the city, all the animals. When you see all this you see me.”

I see you every day now Lord God. I know when I reach out and give a hug that I am hugging you. Now, Lord God, all I ask is peace on our streets and in our homes. Come and walk the streets with me. Stretch out your hand over the City and bless it with you love and Lord God, teach me to do the same.

Submitted by Betti Caramuci, Temple United Methodist Church and St. Monica’s Roman Catholic Church.

Grant, O God, 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.

Amen.

Episcopal, Book of Common Prayer

Creator God, We pray for fulfillment of the Promise of peace on earth.

From the curse of war and from human sin That causes war;
From pride that turns it back on you;
From national vanity posing as patriotism;
From self-righteousness that will not Compromise and from greed that gains
By the oppression of others;
From the lust for money or power that drives people to kill;
From trusting in the weapons of war and mistrusting the councils of peace;
From believing and speaking lies about other people, races, religions and nations;
From words and deeds that encourage discord, prejudice, and hatred; from everything preventing the human family from fulfilling your promise of peace,

GREAT GOD, DELIVER US

Deliver us from every evil, suspicion and fear that works against your redeeming purpose.
Grant us renewed vision, courage, strength, faith and love that we may be your Peacemakers throughout the earth.
We pray in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

(adapted from the Presbyterian Worshipbook)
Submitted by San Francisco Network Ministries
This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and leaves,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
This is my prayer, O God of all earth’s kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2
Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
Hymn 887, published in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006
Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis
Submitted by Rev. James DeLange

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