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Susan Griffin, Griffin & Sullivan

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Interfaith Prayer Book compiled and assembled by,

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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.
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.
Presented by:
Superintendent of Schools
Rev. Harry Chuck & Rita R. Semel
Dr. Arlene Ackerman

Prayers for the City
Rev. Margot Campbell-Gross, Unitarian Universalist Church
Itekhar 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: Samanthha Braman, Gina Cargas,
Noelle Martinez, Sabrina Mills, Julianna Kapjian-Pitt, Alysson
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 96- 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

Alah 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
Director of Interfaith Relations
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance, SF, CA.
Holier 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.

This Prayer is submitted by The Chinese Christian Union of San Francisco
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 revelales tu gran propósito. Que sigan tus mandamientos y permanezcan en tu ley. Ayúdalen, oh Dios, en sus esfuerzos y confiérenles fuerza para servirte. ¡Oh Dios! No los abandones a sí mismos, sino guíen 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

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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