



MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE

INTERFAITH SERVICE

AUGUST 2, 2008

NORTHWOODS SCOUT RESERVATION

Those who limit themselves to their own group, and think in terms of 'I' and 'you' do not see far. However, those who have left these limitations behind are great souls, and consider humanity as one great family.

HINDU (MAUHAUPANISHAD 6:7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing.

--Psalm 100

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.

--From the Baha'i Writings

O Great Spirit! Watch over us as we begin this day. Protect us as we live in your care. Give us bounty and hold us from harm. We are your children and wish only to please you. We hold our Mother Earth close to our hearts and wish her goodness. We thank You for your love.

--American Indian

READING From the Koran, Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25

The true servants of the Gracious GOD are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

INVOCATION from the Jewish Sabbath Service

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be for ever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen

PEACE PRAYERS FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS

HINDU (ATHARVAVEDA, 3:30:1)

I will make of you a person with a heart for someone else, a right-minded creature, free of hate. Let one person deal lovingly with another, like the mother cow with her new-born calf. (Rigveda, 10:1 61:2)

O human, deal with each other lovingly, so your thoughts may be one, that you may judge together what is right and what is not right, so each may get his due. For earth, atmosphere, heaven, we consider the excellent radiation of the god who gives life; may He inspire our spirit. You, who supports and carries everything, I pray to you; Let me regard all creatures as friends and may all see me as such. Let it be so that we approach each other as friends.

All: Open up my heart for peace.

CHRISTIAN (ANGLICAN)

Oh God, All holy one, You are our Mother and our Father and we are your children.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may be able to discern Your work In the universe,

And be able to see Your features in every one of Your children.

May we learn that there are many paths, but all lead to You.

Help us to know that You have created us members of the same family Your family, the human family.

Help us to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks

So that we may live in peace and harmony, wiping away the tears from the eyes of those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

And may we know war no more, as we strive to be what You want us to be: Your children.

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican Church of Southern Africa)

All: Open up my heart for peace.

BUDDHIST

I go for refuge until I am enlightened, to the Buddha, the Dharma and the supreme assembly. By the virtuous merit that I create by practicing giving and the other perfections. May I attain the state of Buddha, in order to benefit all sentient beings. I dedicate my own merits and those of all others to the great enlightenment. May the force of observing that which is right and abstinence from wrong practices and evil deeds nourish and augment the

prosperity of the world. May it invigorate living beings and help them blossom. May sylvan joy and pristine happiness ever increase, ever spread and encompass all that is.

All: Open up my heart for peace.

ISLAM

"Oh Allah, grant me light in my heart and light in my tongue, light in my hearing and light in my vision
Grant me light behind me and light before me, light to the right of me and light to the left of me,
light above me and light below me. Oh Allah, grant me light"
(prayer of the Prophet Muhammad, from the collection of Sahih Muslim)

All: Open up my heart for peace.

CHRISTIAN (ORTHODOX)

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

(From the Orthodox Prayer Book)

All: Open up my heart for peace.

DAOISM

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.
If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors.
If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.
(Lao Tzu - 570-490 B.C.)

All: Open up my heart for peace.

JEWISH

Psalm 67:1-7

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,
that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.
May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

All: Open up my heart for peace.

CHRISTIANS (PEACE PRAYER OF ASSISI)

God our Father, Goodness beyond all goodness, beauty beyond all Beauty,
in you is peace and tranquillity and harmony; reconcile your servants who are
divided from one another, grant us your unifying Spirit and make us one.
May we become spiritually one by the embrace of charity and the bond of
affection; one among ourselves, and one with others; one in the peace which
comes from you and gives harmony to all things; one in the grace and mercy
and tenderness of your Beloved Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit is God
living and reigning for ever and ever.

All: Open up my heart for peace.

DIALOGUE

Rabbi Amy Bigman, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing MI
Reverend Deborah Johnson, First United Methodist Church, Sturgis MI
Mohammed Mahgoub, Islamic Center of East Lansing MI
Father Steve Mattson, St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Swartz Creek MI.

PRAYER

Master of the universe
Grant me the ability to be alone;
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.
May I express there everything in my heart,
And may all the foliage of the field
(All grasses, trees and plants)
May they all awake at my coming,
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer
So that my prayer and speech are made whole
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1811)

A TRADITIONAL SCOUTING SONG - Kum Ba Ya

Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Oh Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's crying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's laughing Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's shouting Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's praying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum ba ya, My Lord Kum ba ya.

A PRAYER FOR THE SCOUTS

O Lord, we thank you for the work of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who in his
dedication and wisdom founded the World Scouting Movement. We thank
you for the efforts of those thousands of men and women who have brought
Scouting to millions of young men and women the world over.

We rededicate ourselves to the principles of our Movement -- To do our best -- to do our duty -- to God -- and to our Country.

We ask you, O Lord, to give us the strength and courage -- each of us -- to live up to the Scout Oath -- the Scout Law -- and the high ideals of the World Brotherhood of Scouting. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER - Composed by Chief Yellow Lark, a Blackfoot Indian

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your many children. I am weak and small. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.

BENEDICTIONS

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26