

MASSACHUSETTS REMEMBERS

AN INTERFAITH LITURGY FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Dear friends,

We offer you this liturgy as a resource to use your own house of worship during the weekend of September 11, 2011. A group of Muslim, Christian and Jewish religious leaders wrote this prayer together. This liturgy will be used at the “Massachusetts Remembers” gathering on the Esplanade in Boston on Sunday September 11, 2011 at 3pm. Each paragraph will be led by a different religious leader. You may choose to have one reader or many. We encourage you to use and adapt it for your setting. We offer this with confidence in God’s provision and mercy for all people.

In Peace,

Massachusetts Interfaith Leaders

Gathering Prayer

“Please turn to someone near you, someone you do not know, and share what you remember about September 11, 2001. Where were you? What do you remember?”

- *Allow for three minutes of conversation. At the end of this time, music for “Let There Be Peace on Earth” comes up, signaling the end of conversations.*
- *The music comes down – perhaps all the way to silence – and the prayer begins.*

Sisters and brothers – we gather on common ground made sacred by our purpose. We gather in the presence of the Holy, the Vast Mystery that beats at the heart of our shared being. We gather in God’s presence and in one another’s presence on this tenth anniversary of 9/11.

We gather to remember our devastation on that day to remember all those who were killed, victims of hatred and violence ... those who sacrificed their lives or health to rescue others, and all those who have mourned and continue to mourn their loss.

**We remember looking out our windows to the crisp blue sky over Boston,
The rising smoke over New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC,
And the cloud of mourning that covered our land.**

**We gather to remember our ongoing loss, the loss of trust in our shared sisterhood and brotherhood.
With pain and sadness we acknowledge the growth of fear and separation and the spread of prejudice and hatred.**

**Let us pray for our world torn apart by violence and exploitation,
Manipulation and greed,
War and civil strife, the corrosive consequences of hatred.**

**Yet, even as we mourn and remember,
We also give thanks for the gift and beauty of life,
For the whole wide, wonderfully diverse human family,
and for the hope of reconciliation and peace.**

**We pray that we might learn courage from one another,
From acts of bravery and generosity all around the world,
and from our common faith in goodness and compassion.**

**As we recall the nightmare of our common past,
Let us renew our commitment to frame our common future
In peace and fellowship
With love in our hearts, and peace on our tongues,
In consonance with God's divine will for peace and good will among
all.
Shalom. Salaam. Peace.**

- *At the conclusion of the prayer, the music swells again, and a song leader comes to the microphone to guide the assembly in singing together:*

**Let there be peace on earth...And let it begin with me...
Let there be peace on earth...The peace that was meant to be...
With God as our maker...Siblings all are we...
Let us walk together...In perfect harmony.**

Closing Prayer

- "Please turn to someone you do not know and share at least one thing that you are committed to doing to bring about peace, hope or reconciliation."
- *Allow for three minutes of conversation – as before, slowly have music for "Let There Be Peace on Earth" rise to signal the end of conversation.*
- *As before, the music comes down and the prayer begins:*

**Brothers and sisters, our harsh past has taught us.
Ten weary years from that day, changed by all that has taken place,
We recognize more clearly that we are all called to do our part
To fashion a world of justice and peace in accord with the will of God.
Let us pray:**

**For all those whose lives have been devastated by the violence of terrorism:
For those killed on 9/11
And for all those who live in the midst of conflict, fear, and distrust,**

Let us together act to comfort, to heal, and to build bridges of understanding...

Let us be bold and vigilant in the protection of the rights of every human being,
And let us seek to be a blessing.

For our world torn apart by conflict and strife, arrogance and bigotry,
Disparity in power and resources, greed and selfishness,

Let us together embrace the common ideals of freedom and justice,
Dignity and opportunity for *all*...
Let us heal the wounds and mend the tears,
and let us seek to be a blessing.

For all those who are hungry and without water
Who have no access to medicines and adequate medical care,
For all the victims of famine, floods and earthquakes,
For all the victims of war,

Let us together paint the portrait of a global family,
Whose collective wealth is at the disposal of those in need...
And let us seek to be a blessing.

For our nation and our people,
For this good and bounteous land that we have received,
For the wisdom and the will to conserve it for those who come after us,
For the noble heritage of liberty, freedom and justice which is ours,
For the grace and wisdom to share what has been entrusted to us,

Let us together accept responsibility to make even greater
Not only this wondrous country but the entire family of nations...
and let us seek to be a blessing.
Shalom. Salaam. Peace.

- *The music swells again, and a song leader comes to the microphone to guide the assembly in singing together (perhaps this verse or the final verse):*

Let there be peace on earth...And let it begin with me...
Let there be peace on earth...The peace that was meant to be...
With God as our maker...Siblings all are we...
Let us walk together...In perfect harmony.