

UN International Day of Peace

Interfaith Service

Friday, September 21, 2018

3:00 pm at the Presidio Chapel



Welcome and Reading of the SFIC Interfaith Statement

Michael G. Pappas, M.Div., Executive Director

San Francisco Interfaith Council

“This is an interfaith community. Whatever our individual belief, 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.”

Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.95 and Add.1)] 55/282. International Day of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, by which it declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,

Recalling also its other relevant resolutions, including resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000,

Reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict,

Considering the unique opportunity it offers for a cessation of violence and conflict throughout the world, and the related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community,

Desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly,

1. Decides that, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;
2. Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;
3. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.

111th plenary meeting 7 September 2001

Assisi Litany

Assisi Litany: Modified from the Assisi Pledge for Peace in Assisi, Italy, in February 2002, Pope John Paul II and religious leaders of different faiths developed and sent this pledge to political leaders around the world in the hope to inspire love, fellowship and peace on earth.

We commit ourselves to proclaiming our firm conviction that violence and terrorism are incompatible with the authentic spirit of religion, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to educating people to mutual respect and esteem, in order to help bring about a peaceful coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to fostering the culture of dialogue, so that there will be an increase of understanding and mutual respect between individuals and people, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to defending the right of everyone to live a decent life in accordance with their own cultural identity, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to forgiving one another for past and present errors and prejudices, for without justice there can be no true peace, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to taking up the side of the poor and helpless, to speaking out for those who have no voice, and to working effectively to change these situations, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy
O divine master grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life
Amen

Invitation to Those Present to Make an Offering from Their Respective Traditions

Tree Planting

"Tree Planting Blessing"

Almighty One, we stand before you in awe as we come together as people of different faiths to plant this tree.

Like each of us, this tree began unique and original, unlike anything that ever was before or will be.

Like each of us this tree began with a single seed, concealing a complex potential that miraculously unfolds with each passing day.

We pray that the roots of this tree will gain hold and spread deep, drawing nourishment from the fertile earth.

We pray that the trunk will grow healthy and strong, withstanding the harsh forces of nature and be able to support its canopy of branches and leaves.

So too, grant that each of us may possess a healthy body and a strong moral spirit, each holding steadfast to his and her own integrity, withstanding the tempests and temptations that could weaken or deter us.

May we watch these branches bud and blossom, giving shade and beauty for all to enjoy.

So, too, may we watch each other blossom being blessings and support to one another, friends and community.

Make us agents of peace and contributors to the world.

Help us nourish and nurture this tree and one another, so that together we may mature and prosper, fulfilling to the greatest extent possible the potential for which You have placed us on this earth.

Amen

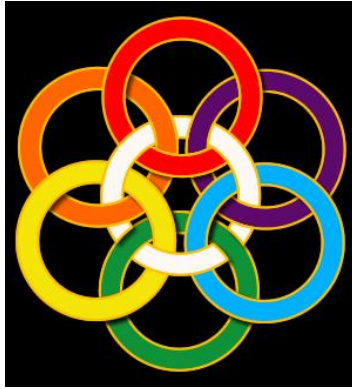
Singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

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 our Creator
We are family
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now;
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me



Interfaith Center at the Presidio



United Religions Initiative