



**Interfaith Prayer Service for
Mayor London Nicole Breed**

Third Baptist Church
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

Thank you Rev. Brown and the historic Third Baptist Church for so generously and graciously hosting this historic interfaith service. Mayor-Elect London Nicole Breed, the San Francisco Interfaith Council brings to you, through those participating in this evening's interfaith service, the fervent prayers and support of our City's 800 congregations, its religiously affiliated academic and health care institutions and the faith based social service agencies that provide the safety net for San Francisco's most vulnerable residents. For nearly three decades our Council, in the spirit of our Patron Saint Francis, has lifted up the best of San Francisco values by bringing people of different faiths together to celebrate the rich diversity of our spiritual and religious traditions, building understanding and serving our community. Be it tirelessly laboring to uphold human and civil rights for all of our residents, providing shelter and meals for the homeless, seeking to repurpose underutilized religious properties for affordable housing for low-paid,

yet essential workers, protecting and defending the environment, giving birth to the sanctuary movement, defending the rights of vulnerable immigrants, being ready and prepared to come to the aid of our City in times of disaster and so much more, San Francisco's communities of faith stand with you at this profound crossroad in our history. We offer this evening's worship to you as a gift, realizing the gravity of the challenges you are being called to address on our behalf. As you prepare to take up the mantle of leadership, may you be blessed with discernment, strength, patience and perseverance, and may the hallmarks of your tenure as our Mayor be those of justice, inclusion, peace, unity and collaboration. With this blessing it is my honor and privilege to present to you the founder and past chair of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Rita Semel.