

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Interfaith Service for Peace

**Welcoming The Faith and Politics Institute's
American Experience Pilgrimage to California**



Saturday, December 2, 2017

4:00 pm

Presidio Chapel

PRELUDE

*Dr. Sally Wei, Director
Tzu Chi Foundation, Santa Rosa*

Welcome

*Michael G. Pappas, M.Div., Executive Director
San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Reading of the SFIC Interfaith Statement

*Rita R. Semel, Past Chair
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.”

PROCESSIONAL

All Rise for the Singing of
“God Bless America”

Accompanied on the piano by *Dr. Sally Wei, Director
Tzu Chi Foundation, Santa Rosa*

God bless America, land that I love
Stand behind her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains, to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America
My home sweet home!
God bless America
My home sweet home!

Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell

*Rev. Ronald Kobata, Senior Minister
Buddhist Church of San Francisco*

Muslim Prayer for Peace
Hala K. Hijazi, Commissioner
San Francisco Human Rights Commission

A Brahma Kumaris Meditative Chant for Peace
Sister Sukanya Belsare
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

Intercessions
Bishop William Justice, Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of San Francisco

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

All Rise for the Recitation of
“The 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

Homily

*Rev. Ronald Kobata, Senior Minister
Buddhist Church of San Francisco*

All Rise for the Singing of
“Shalom, Chaverim”
(traditional Hebrew folk song)

Accompanied on the piano by **Dr. Sally Wei**, Director
Tzu Chi Foundation, Santa Rosa

Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.
Share peace, dear friends, share peace, dear friends, God’s peace, God’s peace.
Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.
Share peace, dear friends, share peace, dear friends, God’s peace, God’s peace.
Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim, shalom, shalom.
Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim, shalom, shalom.

A Reading from the Hebrew Sacred Text

Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Senior Rabbi
Congregation Emanu-El

From Genesis 32 – The Biblical Reading of this Sabbath:

A Story from the Abrahamic Traditions:

Looking up Jacob saw Esau coming; accompanied by four hundred men.....He himself went on ahead and bowed low to the ground seven times until he was near his brother. Esau ran to greet him. He embraced him and, falling on his neck he kissed him: and they wept. Looking about, he saw the women and the children.”Who,” he asked, “are these with you?” He answered, “The children with whom God has favored your servant.” ...And he asked, “What do you mean by all this company which I have met?” He answered, “to gain my lord’s favor.” Esau said, “I have enough my brother; let what you have remain yours.” But Jacob said, “No, I pray you; if you would do me this favor, accept from me this gift; for to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably!”

And so we are taught- those who have struggled with each other, when they encounter God’s presence, they learn not just to seek peace and pursue it, but to make peace as well. When we see the face of another human being, no matter their race, religion, gender identity, or sexual preference, we understand –it is like seeing the face of God!

A Prayer for America by The Rev. Tamara Lebak

*Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco*

God of many names,
You who has endowed us with the inalienable rights of Life, Liberty,
and the Pursuit of Happiness,
Let us remember this day that in this country there is no national religion,
There is no superior race
There is no preferable gender or orientation.
We gather holding a common value
That the glory of this country
rests first and foremost in its diversity.
Out of many ideas,
Out of many beliefs,
Out of many views,
Out of many voices,
Out of many passions,
Out of many experiences,
We are one.
Help us O God, to never forget
that we need not be alike
to live and love alike.
We ask for forgiveness this day
For our national and individual transgressions ...
When we have chosen inaction or silence
in the face of injustice,
and abuse of power --
and our failure to claim our own.
We ask for forgiveness for
When we have not known our own neighbor, Fed our hungry,
or equipped our future generation with Knowledge and love.
We ask for a blessing on this nation according to our own faith and forms
And pledge our voice in support of moving closer and closer to freedom.
These and the prayers of our hearts we pray now in the silence...
In the names of those who have come before
And those who are yet to be,
In the names of all of the helpers of humankind: Amen.

St. Paul's Exhortation on Love
1 Corinthians, Chapter 13:1-13
Father Stephen Kyriacou, Dean
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Ἐὰν ταῖς γλώσσαις τῶν ἀνθρώπων λαλῶ καὶ τῶν ἀγγέλων, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, γέγονα χαλκὸς ἤχων ἢ κύμβαλον ἀλαλάζον. **2** καὶ ἐὰν ἔχω προφητείαν καὶ εἰδῶ τὰ μυστήρια πάντα καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν γνῶσιν, καὶ ἐὰν ἔχω πᾶσαν τὴν πίστιν ὥστε ὄρη μεθιστάναι, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, οὐθέν εἰμι. **3** καὶ ἐὰν ψωμίσω πάντα τὰ ὑπάρχοντά μου, καὶ ἐὰν παραδῶ τὸ σῶμά μου, ἵνα καυθήσομαι, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, οὐδὲν ὠφελοῦμαι.

4 Ἡ ἀγάπη μακροθυμεῖ, χρηστεύεται ἡ ἀγάπη, οὐ ζηλοῖ, ἡ ἀγάπη οὐ περπερεύεται, οὐ φυσιοῦται, **5** οὐκ ἀσχημονεῖ, οὐ ζητεῖ τὰ ἑαυτῆς, οὐ παροξύνεται, οὐ λογίζεται τὸ κακόν, **6** οὐ χαίρει ἐπὶ τῇ ἀδικίᾳ, συνχαίρει δὲ τῇ ἀληθείᾳ. **7** πάντα στέγει, πάντα πιστεύει, πάντα ἐλπίζει, πάντα ὑπομένει.

8 Ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτει· εἴτε δὲ προφητεῖαι, καταργηθήσονται· εἴτε γλῶσσαι, παύσονται· εἴτε γνῶσις, καταργηθήσεται. **9** ἐκ μέρους γὰρ γινώσκομεν καὶ ἐκ μέρους προφητεύομεν· **10** ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ τὸ τέλειον, τὸ ἐκ μέρους καταργηθήσεται. **11** ὅτε ἤμην νήπιος, ἐλάλουν ὡς νήπιος, ἐφρόνουν ὡς νήπιος, ἐλογιζόμην ὡς νήπιος· ὅτε γέγονα ἀνὴρ, κατήρηκα τὰ τοῦ νηπίου. **12** βλέπομεν γὰρ ἄρτι δι' ἐσόπτρου ἐν αἰνίγματι, τότε δὲ πρόσωπον πρὸς πρόσωπον· ἄρτι γινώσκω ἐκ μέρους, τότε δὲ ἐπιγνώσομαι καθὼς καὶ ἐπεγνώσθην. **13** νυνὶ δὲ μένει πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη, τὰ τρία ταῦτα· μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. **11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Final Musical Offering

All Rise for the Singing of **“Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

Accompanied on the piano by ***Dr. Sally Wei***, Director
Tzu Chi Foundation, Santa Rosa

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

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Pastor, Third Baptist Church and
President, San Francisco Chapter - NAACP

POSTLUDE

Dr. Sally Wei, Director
Tzu Chi Foundation, Santa Rosa