



Interfaith Unity Celebration for

Mayor-Elect Daniel L. Lurie

Congregation Emanu-El

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

San Francisco Interfaith Council

As the psalmist proclaimed, “How good and pleasant it is for sisters and brothers to dwell together in unity.” Thank you, Rabbi Bauer and the Congregation EmanuEl community for graciously generously hosting this historic interfaith Unity Celebration on the occasion of the Inauguration of Daniel L. Lurie as Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco.

My name is Michael Pappas, Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, and on behalf of today’s participants, those religious and community leaders present and the 800 communities of faith and religious institutions of our City, allow me to welcome you to this Interfaith Unity Celebration for our Mayor-Elect.

Since time immemorial, communities of faith have traditionally prayed for their civic leaders and their families. Today is no exception. Mayor-Elect Lurie, for those of us who've journeyed with you over the past decade plus, we have come to know you as one committed to that core tenet of Judaism, Tikun Olam (repairing the broken world) and whose faith is actualized in service to our City and to those in the greatest of need. In the distinguished history of your family, without fanfare, you labored tirelessly and with great vision and optimism to help navigate our City from the hopelessness of the Great Recession to a period of the greatest prosperity in recent memory. It is this same vision and optimism, coupled with focused pragmatism and discernment that will help you to navigate our City and its people to a bright new tomorrow.

As the son of a rabbi, you know that you do not travel this road alone. You embark upon this journey with the support of your beloved partner-in-life Becca, your beautiful children, and your countless extended family, the San Franciscans who have called you to this high office.

Today, faith leaders representing the rich diversity of our City's religious traditions gather in the name and spirit of unity, not only to pray for you, but also to commit ourselves to support you in service. We offer this worship to you as a gift, realizing the gravity of the challenges you will address on our behalf. As you commit yourself to the responsibilities of leadership, as our Mayor, 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.

On behalf of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, I present you with this small volume of prayers from our many different faiths to bring you inspiration and guidance on your journey.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU