SILENCE and SOUND

An
Interreligious Observance of the
World Day of Prayer
At
The United Nations
1 p.m.
5 April 1976
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

Opening Prayer (Silent) - Director of the U.N. Meditation Group (3 min.)

Prayers for Peace and Progress - Representatives of Sufism
Buddhism
Christianity
Islam
Judaism
Jainism

(Each prayer offering will be a maximum of 3 minutes. To allow time for reflection, each reading will be followed by a short selection of music. At the conclusion of each piece of music, the next person on the agenda will please begin with their prayer.) (30 min.)

"O United Nations" - Sung by members of the U.N. Meditation Group (5 min.)

Concluding Silent Prayer - Final prayer of the Observance by the Representatives joining together on stage for this offering. Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, will end this prayer by bowing and chanting the OM. (5-7 min.)

The printed Programme of the Day will include a short paragraph on prayer or religious expression in each of the participating traditions. (This will not be read during the Observance). If possible, we would like to also print the text of the prayer that will be recited during the Programme. Wherever possible, these selections will appear in two languages.

In order to allow time for printing, the introductory statements and prayers should be received by Friday, April 2, 1976. Late submissions, (those not able to be mailed before Friday) may be telephoned during office hours to K. Keefe, PL4-1234 Ext. 3946.

Programme will conclude by 1:55 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the International Cooperation for Peace Committee and the U.N. Meditation Group
For Interreligious Observance of the World Day of Prayer

Sample of Prayers to be printed in Programme and read during observance

PRAYER FOR PEACE

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;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much 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 is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

—Prayer of St. Francis

Pir Vilayat Khan
Head of the Sufi Order in the West

KHATUM

O Thou, Who art the Perfection of Love, Harmony, and Beauty,
The Lord of Heaven and earth,
Open our hearts, that we may hear Thy Voice, which constantly cometh from within.

Disclose to us Thy Divine Light, which is hidden in our souls, that we may know and understand life better.

Most Merciful and Compassionate God, give us Thy great Goodness; Teach us Thy loving Forgiveness; Raise us above the distinctions and differences which divide men; Send us the Peace of Thy Divine Spirit, And unite us all in Thy Perfect Being.

Venerable Lozang Jamspal
Lamaist Buddhist Monastery of America

Sample of prayer with translation to be printed and read.

Tadyatha OM GATE GATE PARAGATE PARASAMGATE BODHI YE SVAHA
That is to say, OM, gone, gone, gone beyond to Enlightenment, hail!

(Final Prayer)

May all obstructions be pacified.
May all human disease and harmfulness cease.
May all unhappiness be dispelled,
And may there be prosperity in the world for human beings.

July 24, 1975
Taken from National Day of Prayer Observance at the U.N.
For: Interreligious Observance of the World Day of Prayer
April 5, 1976

Sample of Introductory Paragraphs on Prayer or Religious Expression
to be printed in programme but not read during the observance.

Rabbi Samuel Geffen
New York Board of Rabbis

Prayer has been a tradition since the days of Abraham. It has always been a most important element in the make-up of human beings, who in their nature felt the need to communicate with the Almighty, Creator of all humanity. At times prayer was uttered in the briefest manner, as we find Moses praying on behalf of his sister Miriam in her affliction. In his deeply sincere prayer for healing, Moses uttered five Hebrew words—*El ma refa na lah,* "Heal her now, O God, I beseech Thee." His prayer to God was heard and Miriam was healed.

There are long, formal prayers and there are words directed Heavenward, few and informal. We believe with absolute faith that our prayers are effective and will be heard.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf
Director, The Islamic Center,
Washington, D.C.

PRAYERS IN ISLAM

Prayer has its special place in Islam. It is the topmost ritual incumbent upon all adult believers. It is a mandatory duty performed and said in congregation or in private daily in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, at sunset and at night. In addition, Muslims are urged to supplicate and pray to their Lord any time, day and night, feeling that God is near and ready to answer their prayers if they comply with His teachings. Parents are also to train their children in saying their prayers when they attain the age of seven.
PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

OFFERED BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM, NATIONAL DIRECTOR
INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

at an Interreligious Observance of the World Day of Prayer at
The United Nations
5 April 1976

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease.
When a great and wondrous peace embraces the world.

When one nation shall not threaten another
and we shall not again experience war.

Bless us, O Lord, with peace.

We are greedy for gain, pursuing profit
While soldiers pursue each other far away.

Nations squander their young men's lives on a spree.
Even Abraham was stopped; he did not sacrifice his son.

Help us to seek peace, O Lord, and to pursue it.

Hungry children starve our souls.
Naked children expose us.

Slaughtered children kill our hopes;
We are wretched in their parents' sorrow.

Heal us, O Lord; help us to turn to each other.

Let us make no peace with hunger or oppression,
Let us make no peace with hatred or with fear.

Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream,
Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.

May the curses of the old year end.
May the blessings of the new year begin.

Amen.

Boruch ato adonai oseh ha'sholom.
Annul Wars and the Shedding of Blood

Be it thy will
to annul wars and the shedding of blood from the universe,
and to extend a peace, great and wondrous, in the universe.
“Nor again shall one people raise the sword against another
and they shall learn war no more.”

But let all the residents of earth recognize and know the inner
most truth:
that we are not come into this world for quarrel and division,
nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed;
but we are come into this world
thee to recognize and know,
be thou blessed forever.

And let thy glory fill all our wits and minds, knowledge and
hearts;
and may I be a chariot for the presence of thy divinity.
May I not again depart from the Sanctity as much as a hairs-
breadth.
May I not think one extraneous thought.
But may I ever cling to thee and to thy sacred Torah,
until I be worthy to introduce others into the knowledge of the
truth of thy divinity.
“To announce to the sons of man thy power,
and the honor of the glory of thy kingdom.”

Ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav
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La ilemoi tov melachma

Din rash kolpech

Shebamos milamecho vesofichu tikum ma tukol

Temeshik shelom zeh zeh veolam b'olam.

La ya'avu zeh veil zeh b'olam.

La ya'avu zeh veil zeh kolpech.

Rim yiru mishi el yishpi halam la'amah

Ahav la amot la'el u'al b'olam vealham b'olam.

La amot b'olam veal hamah veal halam b'olam.

La amot b'olam veal halam veal halam b'olam.

Mi'alim b'olam

K'ri b'olam alam.

Sheva'ar la kedusha la'amah ve'al hamah.

Amen.

Wished to Rachel J. Bratman.
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but we are come into this world

thee to recognize and know,
be thou blessed forever.

And let thy glory fill all our wits and minds, knowledge and hearts;

and may I be a chariot for the presence of thy divinity.

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Ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav
March 18, 1976

Mr. A. Kevin Keefe, Coordinator
International Cooperation for Peace Committee
866 United Nations Plaza – Room A-6325
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Keefe,

Thanks very much for your thoughtful letter of March 10th. I was glad that we did have a chance to chat over the telephone and clarify a number of matters.

I want to accept with appreciation your kind invitation to be present as a representative of Judaism at the Interreligious World Day of Prayer Observance at the United Nations on April 5th.

As we agreed, I will make every effort to get a text of a Jewish prayer, both in Hebrew and English, to you as quickly as I can.

As soon as you know who else has accepted to take part, please do share this with me. It will help give me some perspective about approaches to the theme.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

On Monday, April 5 at 1 p.m. there will be an inter-religious World Day of Prayer Observance at the United Nations, co-sponsored by the International Cooperation for Peace Committee and the United Nations Meditation Group.

We invite you to represent the Jewish faith and join with leaders of the Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, and Moslem traditions in offering a prayer for world peace.

Short periods of silence and music will act as interludes to the reading of prayers. The program will conclude by 2 p.m.

We would be most honored if you would share in this observance with us. As the final program must be printed as soon as possible, we'd appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

For your interest and reference, I've enclosed a copy of the National Day of Prayer Observance at the United Nations book, the New York Times description of the event, and a copy of the proceedings of a religious service held to celebrate the opening of the 30th session of the General Assembly.

Very sincerely yours,

A. Kevin Keefe  
Coordinator

10 March 1976

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Leaders Mark National Day of Prayer at the U.N. Church Center

Representatives of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Bahá'í and Muslim groups at prayer ceremony at the Church Center of the U.N.

Dr. Denning said there was in Thanks a Million.

The leaders in the faith groups said much for which we can thank God, but we see so many in prayer today, and in the presence of our leaders, that we might consider our own shortcomings so many failures, our limitations, our own shortcomings, and our own failings, and the shortcomings of the Church Center, and the shortcomings of the Church Center of the U.N.