



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 106, Folder 21, Interreligious World Day of Prayer  
Observance [New York]. 5 April 1976.



4/5

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.



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 might 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.”

לא ילמדו עוד מלחמה

יהי רצון מלפניך  
שתבטל מלחמות ושפיכות דמים מן העולם  
ותמשיך שלום גדול ונפלא בעולם.  
ולא ישאו עוד גוי אל גוי חרב  
ולא ילמדו עוד מלחמה.

רק יכירו וידעו כל יושבי תבל האמת לאמתו  
אשר לא באנו לזה העולם בשביל ריב ומחלוקת  
ולא בשביל שנאה וקנאה וקנתור ושפיכות דמים  
רק באנו לעולם  
כדי להפיר ולדעת אותך  
מתברך לנצח.

וימלא כבודך את כל מוחנו ושכלנו ודעתנו ולבבנו  
ואהיה מרכבה לשכינת אלהותך.  
ולא אצא עוד מן הקדשה אפילו כחוט השערה  
ולא אחשוב שום מחשבת חוץ.  
רק אהיה תמיד דבוק בך ובתורתך הקרושה  
עד שאזכה להכניס גם באחרים ידיעת אמתת אלהותך.  
להודיע לבני האדם גבורתך  
וכבוד הדר מלכותך.

Ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

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שֶׁתִּבְטַל מִלְחָמוֹת וּשְׂפִיכוֹת דָּמִים מִן הָעוֹלָם  
וְתִמְשִׁיךְ שָׁלוֹם גָּדוֹל וְנִפְלָא בְּעוֹלָם.  
וְלֹא יִשְׂאוּ עוֹד גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חֶרֶב  
וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה.

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רַק יִפְּירוּ וְיִדְעוּ כֹּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵּבֵל הָאֵמֶת לְאֵמֶתוֹ  
אֲשֶׁר לֹא בָּאוּ לְזֶה הָעוֹלָם בְּשִׁבִיל רִיב וּמַחְלֹקֶת  
וְלֹא בְּשִׁבִיל שְׂנְאָה וְקִנְיָה וְקִנְיָה וְקִנְיָה וְשִׁפְיכוֹת דָּמִים  
רַק בָּאוּ לְעוֹלָם  
כְּדֵי לְהִכִּיר וּלְדַעַת אוֹתְךָ  
חֲתֻבְרֵךְ לְנֶצַח.

וַיִּמְלֵא כְבוֹדְךָ אֶת כָּל מוֹחָנוּ וְשִׁכְלָנוּ וְדַעְתָּנוּ וּלְבָבֵנו  
וְאַהֲיָה מְרַכְבָּה לְשִׁכְנֵינִי אֱלֹהוֹתֶיךָ.  
וְלֹא אֵצֵא עוֹד מִן הַקִּדְשָׁה אֲפִילוּ כְּחוֹט הַשְּׁעָרָה  
וְלֹא אֲחָשׁוּב שׁוֹם מִחֻשְׁבַּת חוּץ.  
רַק אֲהִיָּה תָמִיד דְּבוּק בְּךָ וּבְתוֹרָתְךָ הַקְּדוּשָׁה  
עַד שְׂאוּכָה לְהִכְנִים גַּם בְּאַחֲרִים יְדִיעַת אֵמֶת אֱלֹהוֹתֶיךָ.  
לְהוֹדִיעַ לְבְנֵי הָאָדָם גְּבוּרָתְךָ  
וְכָבוֹד הַדָּר מִלְכוּתְךָ.

Ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav



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

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5 April 1976

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Let love and justice flow like a might stream,  
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Ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

hitg faldy  
4/5

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



our hope for mankind

## International Cooperation for Peace Committee

866 United Nations Plaza  
Room A-6325  
New York, N.Y. 10017

tel. PL4-1234 ext. 3946

10 March 1976

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.

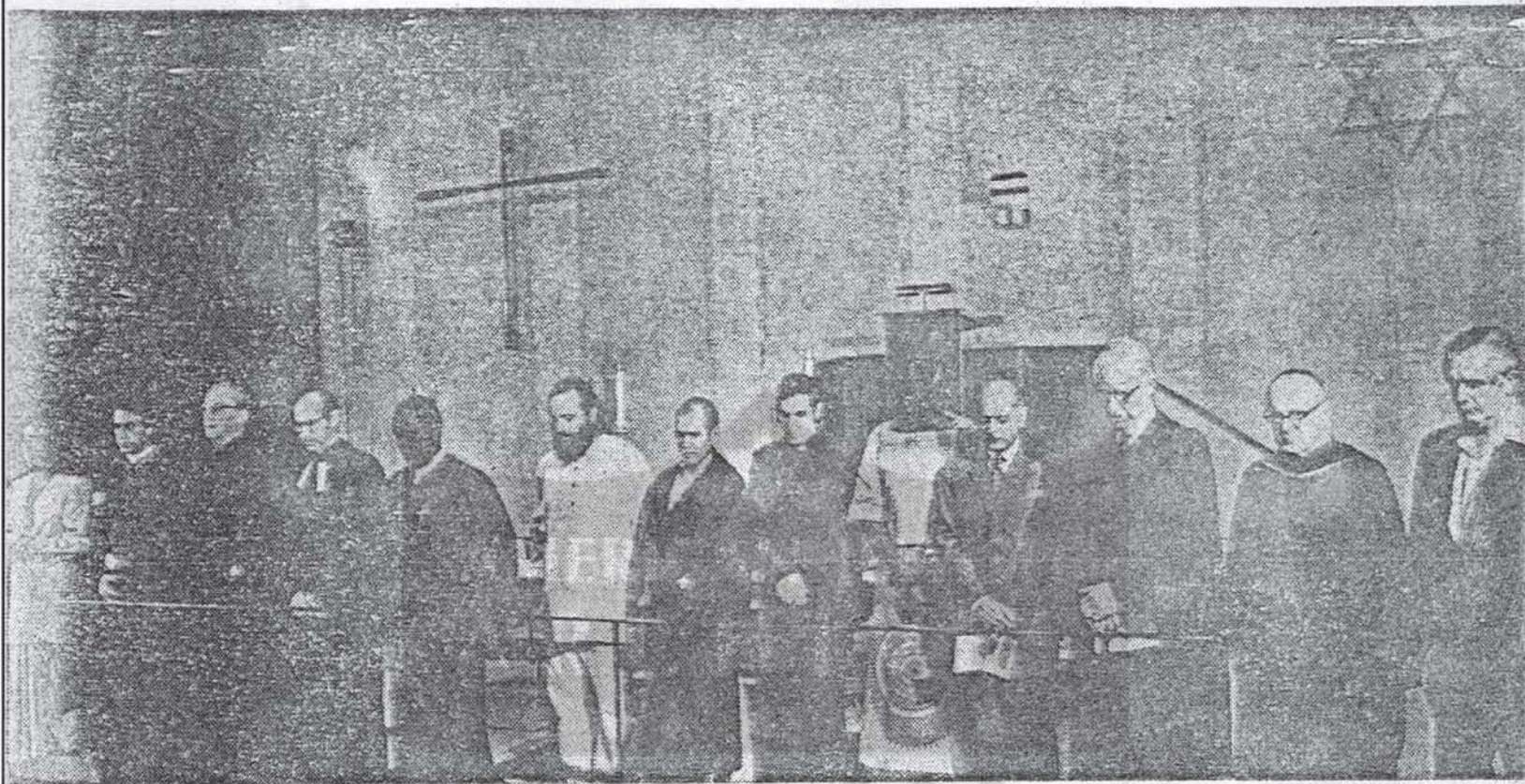
For your interest and reference, I've enclosed a copy of the National Day of Prayer Observance at the United Nations book, the New York Times description of the event, and a copy of the proceedings of a religious service held to celebrate the opening of the 30th session of the General Assembly.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Kevin Keefe".

A. Kevin Keefe  
Coordinator

egp



The New York Times/Robert M. Klein

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

## 6 FAITHS PRESENT AT CHURCH CENTER

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

By GEORGE DUGAN

Leaders of six of the world's major religious bodies marked this country's National Day of Prayer yesterday at a ceremony attended by 100 people in the chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations, at First Avenue and 44th Street.

The Rev. Dr. Dan M. Potter, executive director of the Council of Churches of the City of New York, called it the "most representative gathering of religious leaders ever held in the city."

Sri Chinmoy, a Hindu and director of the United Nations Meditation Group, presided at the hour-long ceremony. He opened the meeting with silent prayer, standing behind a plain white marble altar.

Then, in brief comments, the leaders representing Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i and Muslim groups—called upon Americans to renew their "dedication to the eternal" in prayer and asked God to lead all the nations in "paths of righteousness."

The speakers, in addition to Dr. Potter, included the following: Rabbi Samuel Geffen of the New York Board of Rabbis, Lozang Jamspal of the Buddhist Monastery of America. The Rev. Robert Kennedy of the Brooklyn Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. Stephen Kyriacou of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America. Catherine Mboye of the Baha'i International Community, Muddassir Ali Shamsee of the Muslim Prayer Group. Sheik Shahabu-d-din of the Sufi Order. The Rev. Grant Anderson of the Queens Federation of Churches. The Rev. Kenneth Folkes, president of the Council of Churches of the City of New York.

Dr. Potter said there was much for which "we can thank God, but, we see so many shortcomings, so many failures, so many examples of injustice, inequality, discrimination, brutality, pain, suffering and interminable degrading violence to human dignity."

"We cannot celebrate this Bicentennial," he added, "without feeling the compelling need to sit in sackcloth and ashes, in penance for our failure to God as well as our disappointment to fellow citizens."

Following the commentaries, excerpts were read from President Ford's statement proclaiming yesterday as a National Day of Prayer, the late President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address and the writings of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Sacred Fire, a 30-member choral group, sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful."