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National Day of Prayer Resource

May 6, 2021

This year, we will not be joining in person for our annual National Day of Prayer service. As an interfaith collaborative, we ask our faith communities to encourage individuals and families to pray these prayers in their homes on May 6th. Separated, yet together in spirit, we pray for our country, our people and our common good.

Jewish Prayer

A prayer for peace among nations, protection and welcome for refugees and migrants.
(Offered by: Diane Rapaport-Yampolsky, Temple B'Nai Shalom)

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam
Barukh atah Adonai, our God, sovereign of time and space
Adonai, You created human beings in your image; and,
Lord, You granted human beings the gift of freedom, to live and act with responsibility.

God, grant us humility. We are not so naïve to believe we will always do right; grant us the wisdom to see beyond our current desires, to see beyond nation versus nation, to see our connectedness to each other, to see that we, indeed, are all one humanity.

Lord, centuries of oppression have been embedded in our DNA; grant us empathy to welcome and protect refugees and migrants.

God, teach us to learn from history.

Lord, remove from us the evil that surrounds us.

Adonai, guide us in Tikun Olam, as we repair the world.

Oseh shalom bimromav hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yosh'vei teiveil, v'imru amen.
May the one who creates peace on high bring peace to us and to all who dwell on earth.
And we say Amen.

Muslim Prayer

A prayer for a country in which the common good is advanced and secured, in which the poor and the hungry are fed, housed and hopeful with opportunity.

(Offered by: Imam Mostafa ElSayed, Islamic Association of SW Michigan)

Our Lord, you instruct us to be a people of charity, a people who show care for the poor, for the hungry, for the homeless.

Our Lord, forgive us for not investing in the common good of all people. You are the Giver of all bounties; strengthen us to build a community and a nation in which bounty is available to all, irrespective of their race, their religion, their nationality.

Our Lord, teach us to be thankful for the blessings that we have; and inspire us to build a country where poverty is replaced with opportunity and where all are included in a spirit of love and justice.

In the name of the Most Merciful and the Ever Gracious, Amen.

Christian Prayer

A prayer for a country in which civility and respect prevail, where leaders end their hateful and disrespectful language and where full participation in democracy is embraced.

(Offered by: Jharony Elisabet Fernández-Gibbs, Youth Pastor, Harbor of Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church, Benton Harbor)

Holy One,

You guide us through the night and the day, through times of trial and times of celebration, through sickness and well being. We thank you for the freedoms and resources we receive from our nation; strengthen us to continue to create our nation to be one in which the common good of all is realized.

We pray for a country in which civility and respect prevail and where leaders refrain from hateful and disrespectful language. Guide our leaders to ensure that all are welcomed to participate in our electoral process so that our government is of and by and for the people.

During these perilous and hopeful times, guide and protect us so that our nation emerges as a beacon reflecting God's justice and love. Amen.

Interfaith Prayer

A prayer for an end to hate crimes and gun violence and for a country in which diversity is embraced and celebrated.

(Offered by: Thanh Nguyen, Ansari Institute for the Global Engagement of Religions)

God of Hyun Jung Grant, Xiaojie Tan, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Michels, Yong Ae Yue, Suncha Kim, Soon Chung Park**, and all victims of gun and hate violence,

We grieve the continued violent assaults on Asian, Black, Brown, and indigenous communities. We grieve the continued annihilation of life by weapons of war. We pray that we will never become numb to the desecration of human beings.

Grant us the humility to reflect and mold our hearts towards a life of radical compassion for humankind. Grant us the clarity to act with decisiveness and to elect leaders who strive for peace and inclusion - and who speak words that respect the dignity of all.

Holy One, you teach us to love one another as we have been loved by our Creator. May we love with our ears, listening and learning from the most vulnerable. May we love with our voices, demanding our legislators to enact gun laws that protect our communities. May we love with our hands, writing messages demanding change and also messages that celebrate hope and resilience.

Finally, we ask that you continue to fill us with righteous anger, one that sustains our desire to carve a better future for our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and children.

May we birth a world where prayers replace guns, where love replaces hate, and where solidarity tramples the walls between us. Amen.

*(**These are the names of the Asian beloved murdered by gun violence in Atlanta on March 16th, 2021.)*

Announcement of the Award for the 2021 Leader for the Common Good

This year, interfaith Action launches its Annual Award to a statewide leader who has advanced policies that ensure the common good of all Michiganders. The 2021 Award for Leadership for the Common Good goes to Stephanie Chang, Senator in the Michigan Senate (Michigan District 1) where she also serves as Minority Floor Leader. Senator Chang, the first Asian American woman to be elected to the Michigan Legislature, is being recognized for her leadership:

- in the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 241 to put a temporary moratorium on water shut offs;
- in the passage SB 257 to ensure protections in domestic violence cases;
- in the passage of SB 195 which established a Family Advisory Board within the Michigan Department of Corrections;
- in her ongoing work on behalf of Michigan's diverse immigrant community through policies to ensure language access, driver licenses and state identifications.



To listen to an interview between Senator Chang and Interfaith Action Director, Rev. Dr. Sid Mohn, go to our [YouTube channel](#) or use the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p77XrMYPxko&t=5s>