

Devotional Readings- October 24, 2020 Creating Vibrant Communities Event



Children Prayer from the Baha'i Writings:

O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou are the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

Prayer from the Baha'i Writings:

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou are kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love.

Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with The melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

Thou are the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

Readings from the Old Testament:

Every Sabbath a prayer is said as follows-

"And for all those who are involved faithfully in the needs of the community, may the Holy One , Blessed is He, pay their reward and remove from them every affliction, heal their entire body, and forgive their every iniquity, and send blessing and success to all their handiwork - and let us say Amen."

As for as a thought on harmony and tolerance -

One of the core commandments of Judaism is:

"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).

This commandment stands at the center of the central book in the Torah. The Talmudic sages Hillel and Rabbi Akiva indicated that this is the central commandment of the Torah. The commandment emboldens individuals to treat each other as equals.

Similarly, another significant commandment is to :

“not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor” (Leviticus 19:16),

which can be exhibited in many forms. Jewish sources have emphasized the importance of self-sacrifice when dealing with others, specifically in regard to putting our needs second to another's.

Lastly, *tikkun olam* in one of the fundamental tenets of Judaism. Its exact translation is "repairing the world". Jewish tradition posits that Jews (as well as everyone else) bear responsibility not only for their own moral, spiritual, and material welfare, but also for the welfare of society at large. In particular, it assigns responsibility to all Jews to correct and implement social justice and the establish G-dly qualities throughout the world.

Readings from the New Testament:

Almighty God, We bless your Holy Name, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ‘This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

— Matthew 22: 36-40

Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on. Lord, may nothing separate us from You tonight. Teach us how to choose only Your way tonight so each step will lead us closer to You. Help us walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help us to keep our heart pure and undivided. Protect us from our own careless thoughts, words, and actions. Lord, we thank you that love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Lord, we thank you that:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

—1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Lord, may nothing separate us from You tonight.

Readings from the Quran:

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.

1. *By the Sun and its glorious brightness*
2. *By the Moon as it follows*
3. *By the Day when it displays it*

4. *By the night when it conceals it*
5. *By the Sky and He who constructed it*
6. *By the earth and He who expanded it*
7. *By the Soul, and the proportion and order given to it*
8. *And its enlightenment as to its wrong and it's right*
9. *Truly he succeeds that purifies it*
10. *And he fails that corrupts it!*

—The Quran, Surah Ash-Shams (91:1-10)

Readings from the Sikh Scriptures:

*First, the Lord created the Light , then through Creative Power, all mortal beings were created.
From that One Light, the entire universe welled up. So who is good, and who is bad?
O people, O Siblings of Destiny, do not wander deluded by doubt.
The Creation is in the Creator, and the Creator is in the Creation, totally pervading and
permeating all places.*

*I have completely forgotten my envy of others,
Since I found the Company of the Holy.
I have no foe and no one is a stranger, I get along with everyone.
Whatever God does, I accept that as good.
This is the sublime wisdom; I have obtained from the Holy.
The One God is pervading in all.
Gazing upon the Lord, Nanak blossoms forth in happiness.*

*Praise, praise be unto Thee, O Lord! We understand not Thy ways;
Everything is in Thy power and Thou seest Thyself in diverse forms at Thy Will.*

— Guru Granth Sahib

Readings from the Baha'i Writings:

O Son of Spirit!

*Nobel have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast
created.*

— Baha'u'llah, The Hidden Words

