

Moving Toward Reconciliation

From Painful Past to Hopeful Future

A Christian-Jewish Prayer Service
Hosted by Boston Inter-Religious Dialogue Students
(BIRDS) at Boston College



Monday, April 11, 4:00 p.m.
School of Theology and Ministry Chapel
9 Lake Street, Boston College

Opening Remarks

Shema

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Please recite together.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Scriptures and Stories

1. Book of Wisdom 1:1-5
2. Psalm 141
3. Isaiah 11:6-10

Short Reflection

Before we pray, we would like to invite you all to take a moment for silent reflection. We are all aware that our actions and inactions, our words and our silence, have contributed to the divisions that exist between Jews and Christians. We are aware that we participate in institutions that have historically fostered distrust, persecution, and hateful acts toward one another. We ask God for forgiveness for the parts that we have played, both known and unknown, in allowing such harmful attitudes and actions to exist and to flourish.

(Silence)

Also, as a visible sign of our commitment to unity, we will light each other's candles before prayer together.

Prayers of the Faithful

As a united community, we pray the following. Please read the bold material together.

Now let us pray together as one people, to the one God:

Almighty God, your word of creation caused the water to be filled with many kinds of living beings and the air to be filled with birds. We rejoice in the richness of your creation, and we pray for your wisdom for all who live on this earth, that we may wisely manage and not destroy what you have made for us and for our descendants.

**We pray for God's creation.
We pray for the earth.**

(Silence)

Lord, at times we are like strangers on this earth, taken aback by all the violence, the harsh oppositions. Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the Spirit of peace. Transfigure the deserts of our doubts, and prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation wherever you place us, until the day when a hope of peace dawns in our world.

**We pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
We pray for justice and peace.**

(Silence)

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy.

We pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

We pray for those in any need or trouble.

(Silence)

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God.

**We pray for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
We pray that those who seek God may find and be found by him.**

(Silence)

I now invite you to offer to God any additional names or concerns you may have, either silently or aloud.

(Silence)

Almighty God, we have come into your sanctuary to commune with you. Be our strength, our hope, our guide. Give purpose to our work, meaning to our struggle and direction to our striving. Cause us to understand that only through human betterment, true fellowship and deeds of kindness can we feel your presence. May this, our worship, bring peace to our hearts and strengthen our desire to live in peace with all people.

Closing Remarks

Gentle God, we have gathered here tonight in your Presence, and in your Name to reflect on our attitudes towards and practices with children of your covenant. Give us the courage to acknowledge our past, to presently model your gentle love towards our Jewish neighbors, and to fiercely pursue peaceful and right relationships with our sisters and brothers so that we may build your Kingdom of peace together. Therefore:

Let us truly go in peace, to love and serve God alongside our siblings!

Response: **Thanks be to God; we will!**