



## **Vibrant Voices for Peace:**

*What can we be  
for one another  
in friendship ?*  
August 13, 2024



### **\* Call To Worship / Opening Prayer**

#### **Leader:**

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful  
Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds:  
the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment.  
You alone do we worship, and from You alone do we seek help  
Guide us to the straight path,  
the path of those whom You have blessed,  
and not of those who deserve Your anger or who have gone astray.  
--- Qur'an, Surah 1: *Al-Fatiha* (The Opening) 1:1-7

**All:** Amen.

### **\* What do our Religious Traditions Teach us About How to Relate to Each Other ?**

#### **\* Readings** from Qur'an, hadith and Bible about neighbors and "strangers"

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful.  
Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations,  
that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.  
-- Qur'an, Surah 49: *Al-Hujurat* (The Inner Apartments) 49:13

"Allah will say on the Day of Resurrection:  
Where are those who loved each other for the sake of My glory ?  
Today, on a day when there is no shade but Mine, I shall shelter them with My shade."  
(hadith: Sahih Muslim)

The Prophet (may peace and blessings be upon him) observed:  
"None amongst you truly believes until you love for your sister or brother –  
or for your neighbor – that which you love for yourself."  
(hadith: Sahih Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

What do the Hebrew Scriptures teach us about how to treat our neighbors,  
and how to "be-friend the other" ? Consider "the widow, the orphan, the stranger (in your land)"  
(Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:17-19 & 24:17-22.)

#### **\* Reflections**

What does our own experience teach us about how to be neighbors and friends to each other ?

#### **\* Silent Meditation**

"Insomuch as anyone pushes you nearer to God, he or she is your friend."  
(paraphrased from Abraham Kuyper, Dutch Christian theologian & politician, 1837-1920)  
*Think about examples from your own life in which being a neighbor or a friend to the "other" has  
been a rewarding experience that had a lasting effect on your life.*

### \* Antiphonal prayer

Sirach 6:14-17 (Hebrew Scriptures), and a poem by Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay)

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;  
whoever finds one has found a treasure.

Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;  
those who fear God will find them.

"Friendship is a priceless gift  
that cannot be bought nor sold, but its value is  
far greater than a mountain made of gold;

Wealth: it has no ears to listen,  
no heart to understand,  
it cannot bring you comfort  
or reach out a helping hand.

Faithful friends are beyond price,  
no scale can measure their worth.

Those who fear the Lord  
direct their friendship aright;  
as they are, so will their neighbors be.

for gold is cold and lifeless –  
it can neither see nor hear,  
in time of trouble, it is powerless to cheer –

So, when you ask God for a gift,  
be thankful if He sends  
not diamonds, pearls, or riches  
but the love of real true friends."

### \* Intercessions:

**Response:** May we always be neighbors, friends, and bringers of peace.

### \* Closing Prayer (Dua):

O Allah, protect, help and guide every person that has crossed my path today,  
and all those faces that I keep seeing in my memories. All the people I love, care for and miss.

Please help those who have helped me, those who have shown me kindness,  
the strangers I remember from time to time, and the strangers I may have forgotten.

All these people who live in my good memories make me believe in humanity again.

Allah, I know that You know everything, but I am forgetful.

My heart reminds me sometimes of names and faces who have made me smile.

I have sometimes long forgotten them, but please let me remember them in my duas.

Please accept my duas

and protect those who have brought even the smallest happiness into my life.

I have no means to help them as they have helped me,

so please help them with their concerns – because nothing is impossible for You.

### \* Final Blessing

#### Leader:

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

By the Token of Time (through the ages), verily Humankind is in a state of loss,  
except such as have faith, and do righteous deeds,

And join together in the mutual enjoining of truth, and of patience and constancy.

--- Surah 103: *Al-'Asr* (Time through the ages) 103:1-3

O Lord God, You taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noon one day;  
and made the sun to know its rising and its going down.

Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by Your brightness we may know You to be God.

Grant us, Lord, day and night, the lamp of charity which never fails,

that it may burn in us and shine its light on all around us,

that by its brightness and Yours we may see each other.

--- from the *Book of Common Prayer* (Christian source.)

**All:** *Alhamdulillah* / Thanks be to God.



Please join **Women of Hope** Thursday, September 19 at 7:00pm as we continue to pray for peace.