

A LITANY OF HOPE AND COEXISTENCE

RECITED BY DIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE

- [Joy Lee]** I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us.
- [Malcolm Boyd]** I refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.
- [Sophia Garfias]** I believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression.
- [Mary Leonard]** I believe that we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.
- [Bismaad K. Hansraj]** I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.
- [Jessica Clark]** I believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.
- [Tahera Ahmed]** I believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.
- [Benjamin D. Singer]** I believe that what self-centeredness has torn down, other-centeredness can build up.
- [All the Youth recite together]** By the goodness at work within people, I believe that brokenness can be healed. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."

FINAL BLESSING/CHARGE

LEADER [Bishop Wayne Miller, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Metropolitan Chicago Synod] :

Let us invoke the Love that moves above and below us, around us and within us.

Let us invoke the Spirit of Love that is greater than we are, but which is made real through us.

Let us invoke that human solidarity that makes justice possible and, through justice, makes peace possible.

Let us pray that peace will alight on our city, on our nation, throughout the world.

ALL RESPOND: Amen.

Hymn offered by Choir and People - "We Are Marching in the Light of God."



Council of Religious Leaders
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DWELLING TOGETHER IN UNITY

An InterFaith Gathering In Witness to a Reconciled Community

*Sponsored by the Council of Religious Leaders of
Metropolitan Chicago*

**FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015 - NOON TO 1 PM
DALEY PLAZA, CHICAGO IL**

PROGRAM

WELCOME \ OPENING REMARKS

**Rabbi Michael Balinsky, President
Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago**

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

**Offered by Reverend B. Herbert Martin, Pastor
International Council of Community Churches
Progressive Community Center**

THE BLESSEDNESS OF UNITY

**PSALM 133 (The Bible: New Revised Standard Version)
Offered by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Chancellor
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago**

Hymn offered by Choir — "Can't Give Up Now," by Curtis Burrell

A LITANY FOR THE ELMINATION OF RACISM

LEADER [The Rev. Deacon Jacqueline G. Lynn, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago]:

God, Creator of all races and peoples, who loves each of us for our uniqueness, we offer our prayers of petition:

LEADER: For an end to discrimination in all its forms, we pray ...

ALL RESPOND: *Creator of all nations, hear our prayer.*

LEADER:

That each person may be respected and valued as a child of God, we pray ...

That our respective Faith Communities may witness and offer a universal sign of unity among all peoples, we pray ...

That each of us may acknowledge our part in mistakes and sins of the past pertaining to discrimination and racism, we pray ...

For a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation among peoples who share a history of mutual mistrust, hatred or aggression, we pray ...

That the victims of racial prejudice may find the freedom to forgive those who persecute them, and that their persecutors may have a change of heart, we pray...

That our respective Faith Communities will continue to strive to make every element of human life correspond to the true dignity of the human person, we pray ...

For those who have struggled in the past and continue to do so today for civil rights, economic justice and the elimination of discrimination based on race, we pray ...

For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who allow another's race to influence their relationships and limit their openness, we pray ...

That we may work to influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial stereotypes, and be affirming of the cultural contributions of every racial group in our world, we pray ...

That we may make a personal commitment to abolish social structures which inhibit economic, educational and social advancement of the poor, we pray ...

That we may advocate for fair access to housing, education, health care and a sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all, we pray ...

LEADER [Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church, Northern Illinois Conference]

Source of life, we acknowledge you as Creator of all people of every race, language and culture. Help us to see each other as you see us: your daughters and sons loved into being and sustained by your care. Keep watch over our hearts so that the evil of racism will find no home with us. Direct our spirits to work for justice and peace so that all barriers which oppress our brothers and sisters will be removed.

ALL RESPOND" Amen

SACRED READINGS OR PRAYERS FOR RECONCILIATION

A Baha'i Prayer (Baha'i Writings)

Offered by Shayda Safapour, Chicago Baha'i Community

A Christian Sacred Reading

**Offered by Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor, St. Benedict the African-East, Dean ,
Vicariate VI, Deanery A**

A Hindu Prayer

**Offered by Brahmachari Kriyananda, The Kriya Vedanta Furukulam-Temple
Of Harmony, Joliet, IL**

An Islamic Prayer

**Offered by Tabassum A. Haleem, Executive Director, Council of Islamic
Organizations of Greater Chicago**

A Jain Mantra

Offered by Dr. Hemlata Pokharna, Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago

A Jewish Prayer

**Offered by Rabbi Michael Balinsky, Executive Vice President, Chicago
Board of Rabbis**

A Sikh Prayer

Offered by Dr. Balwant Singh Hansra, Co-Founder, Sikh Religious Society

A Zoroastrian Prayer

**Offered by Rohinton Rivetna, Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan
Chicago**

MEMORIAL PRAYERS

For The Victims of the Shooting at Emanuel African Methodist

Episcopal Church Charleston, South Carolina

**Offered by The Rev. Dr. David Coleman, Jr., Presiding Elder Emeritus,
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**For The Victims of the Shooting at The Armed Forces Career Center
and the Navy Operational Support Center & Marine Corps Reserve
Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee**

Offered by Envoy Tyrone Stagers, The Salvation Army

Hymn offered by Pastor Vickie Johnson

**"Eternal life," by Olive Dungan (Based upon the Prayer of St. Francis of
Assisi)**