

Welcome

History

Opening hymn

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

We light a candle in our joint recognition of the need to pray for peace.

Muslim Prayer

Surat Al-Fatihah (The Opener) in Arabic and then in English

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful,
All praise and thanks to Allah, the Lord of all that exists,
The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful,
The Only Owner of the Day of Recompense.
You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help.

Guide us to the Straight Way,
The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace,
Not the way of those who earned your anger,
Nor those who went astray.
Amen.

Christian prayer.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Readings from the New Testament and the Qu'ran about Mary

St. Luke, ch. 1, verses 26-38

The annunciation: St. Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most high. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done unto me'. And the angel left her.

Surah 19, verses 16-22, 30-34

And mention, (O Muhammad), in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east.

And she took a veil to shroud herself from them. Then we sent to her Our Angel (i.e. Gabriel), and he took before her the form of a perfect man.

She said: 'indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, (so leave me), if you should be fearing of Allah.'

He said: 'I am only a messenger of your Lord to give you (news of) a holy son.'

She said: 'How can I have a son while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?'

He said: 'So shall it be. Your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter already decreed. So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place.

(Jesus) said, 'Indeed I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the scripture and made me a prophet.

And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving so long as I shall live

And (made me) dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant.

And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive.'

That is Jesus, the son of Mary-the word of truth about which they are in dispute.

Christian hymn in praise of Mary

O Mother blest, whom God bestows
On sinners and on just,
What joy, what hope thou givest those
Who in thy mercy trust.
Thou art clement, thou art chaste,
Mary, thou art fair; Of all mothers sweetest, best;
None with thee compare.

Verses from the Qu'ran in praise of Jesus and Mary Surah 3: verses 42-49

And (mention) when the angels said, 'O Mary, indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds.

O Mary, be devoutly obedient to your Lord and prostrate and bow with those who bow (in prayer).'

That is from the news of the unseen which we reveal to you, (O Muhammad). And you were not with them when they cast their lots as to which of them should be responsible for Mary. Nor were you with them when they disputed.

(And mention) when the angels said, 'O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary-distinguished in this world and the Hereafter and among those brought near (to Allah).

He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous.'

She said, 'My Lord, how will I have a child when no man has touched me?'(The angel) said, 'Such is Allah; He creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it, 'Be,' and it is. And He will teach him writing and wisdom and the Torah and the Gospel.

And (make him) a messenger to the Children of Israel, (who will say), Indeed I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I design for you from clay (that which is) like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird by permission of Allah. And I cure the blind (from birth) and the leper, and I give life to the dead-by permission of Allah. And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers.

Mary's own prayer-the Magnificat. Luke 1: verses 46-55

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me,
Holy is His name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear Him.
He puts forth his arm in strength,
and scatters the proud- hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones,
and raises the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Christian and Muslim prayers for peace

Prayers for peace

1. Dear Lord and Father of all humankind, we thank you for the wonder and beauty of your creation. Help us to care for our world as good and responsible stewards. We thank you also for the uniqueness of each individual and the diversity of peoples. Help us to respect each other as children of the one Father and so help to build a more united world.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
2. We pray for all those who have suffered from injustice, prejudice or discrimination. Help us to do what we can to build a more equal, just and loving world. We pray also that our politicians and those in authority will govern with wisdom and fairness and will work together for the common good.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
3. We pray for all those affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Grant peace to those who have died, comfort to those who are grieving, strength to those who are caring for victims, and hope to those in difficult financial circumstances.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
4. Dear Lord, we pray especially for peace in families and communities. We ask for your grace and understanding to help overcome any disagreements or bitterness so that we can all love one another as you have loved us and move forward in a spirit of mercy and forgiveness.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
5. We pray for peace and justice in our troubled world, especially in Syria, Yemen and the Holy Land. Inspire and encourage those working for peace and justice and help us to play whatever part we can in furthering peace and mutual understanding between peoples.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Joint prayer for peace



Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill my heart,
my world, my universe.

Amen.
Salaam
Shalom



Sign of peace

As candles are exchanged, please give each other a sign of peace saying 'peace be with you' or 'salaam alaikum.'

Make me a Channel of your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Sebastian Temple(1928-1997) based on the prayer of St. Francis.