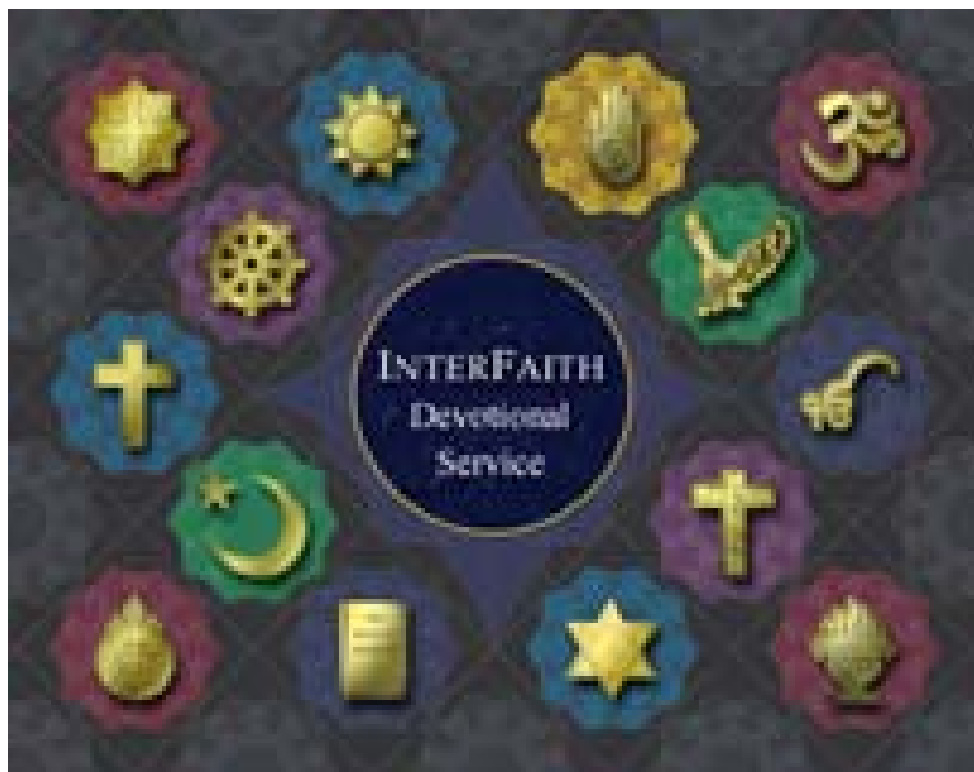


An Inter-Faith Devotional Service
In Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King
"The Color of Love"





Hinduism

Like two golden birds perched on the selfsame tree, intimate friends, the ego and the Self dwell in the same body. The former eats the sweet and sour fruits of the tree of life while the latter looks on in detachment.

As long as we think we are the ego, we feel attached and fall into sorrow, but realize that you are the Self, the Lord of life, and you will be freed from sorrow when you realize that you are the Self, supreme source of light, supreme source of love, you transcend the duality of life And enter into the unitive state.

The Lord of Love shines in the hearts of all. Seeing him in all creatures, the wise forget themselves in the service of all. The Lord is their joy; the Lord is their rest; such as they are the lovers of the Lord.

By truth, meditation, and self-control one can enter into this state of joy and see the Self shining in a pure heart. Truth is victorious, never untruth. Truth is the way; truth is the goal of life, reached by sages who are free from self-will.

The effulgent Self, who is beyond thought, shines in the greatest, shines in the smallest, shines in the farthest, shines in the nearest, shines in the secret chamber of the heart. Beyond the reach of the senses is he, but not beyond the reach of a mind stilled through the practice of deep meditation. Beyond the reach of words and works is he, but not beyond the reach of a pure heart freed from the sway of the senses.

Sages are granted all the help they need in everything they do to serve the Lord. Let all those who seek their own fulfillment love and honor the illumined sage.

Mundaka Upanishad III.1



Judaism

O Lord, Your faithfulness reaches to heaven; Your steadfastness to the sky; Your beneficence is like the high mountains, Your justice like the great deep; man and beast you deliver, O Lord.

How precious is Your faithful care, O God! Mankind shelters in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the rich fare of Your house; You let them drink at Your refreshing stream. With You is the fountain of life; by Your light do we see light.

Bestow Your faithful care on those devoted to You, and Your beneficence on upright men. Let not the foot of the arrogant tread on me, or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

The Tanakh, , Psalm 36, 6~12



Zoroastrianism

We are in readiness to declare Thy Words, O Ahura Mazda! Through Thy Grace and in accordance with Thy Holy Order, since Thou dost advance with friendliness to cheer the speaker of Thy Word.

Zarathustra, as faithful friend, in accordance with the Holy Order, the giver of understanding, proclaims and teaches all good things, in accordance with Thy Good Mind and his Law.

Thy Holy Works, the stars, the suns, and the aurora which bringeth on the light of days, are all, through their Cosmic Order, the speakers of thy praise, O Thou Great Giver, Lord!

Gathas 15, Yasna L



Buddhism

On mountains, by rivers, in steep valleys, in hidden recesses, there grow the plants, trees, and herbs; trees, big or small, the shoots of all the ripening grain, sugar cane and grapevine, all those by the rain are fertilized and abundantly enriched.

The dry ground is all soaked, and herbs and trees flourish together. From the one water which issued from that cloud, plants, trees, thickets, forests, according to their need, receive moisture. All the trees, superior, middle, inferior, all, each according to its size, grow and develop roots, stalks, branches, and leaves, blossoms and fruits in their brilliant colors; by the pouring of the one rain, all become fresh and glossy.

Just as their bodies, forms, and natures are divided into great and small, so the enriching [rain], though one and the same, yet makes each flourish in the same manner the Buddha also appears in the world, like a great cloud universally covering all things; and having appeared in the world, He, for the sake of all living beings, discriminates and proclaims the reality of all the laws.

The Lotus Sutra, excerpt from the Parable of the Herbs



Christianity

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” Then He left them and went away.

The New Testament, Matthew 16

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there He cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in Him were to receive; for as yet there was not Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The New Testament, John 7.37~39



Islam

Only they believe in Our revelations who, when they are reminded, bow in adoration, and give praise to their Lord, and do not become arrogant. Their backs do not rest on their beds, and they pray to their Lord in fear and hope, and spend of what We have given them (in charity). No soul knows what peace and joy lie hidden from them as reward for what they have done. Is one who is a believer like one who is a transgressor? No, they are not alike. As for those who believe and do the right, there are gardens for abode as welcome for what they had done.

Qur’án 32.15-19

O you who believe, remember God a great deal, and sing His praises morning and evening. It is He who sends His blessing on you, as (do) His angels, that He may lead you out of darkness into light, for He is benevolent to the Believers. Their greeting on the Day they meet Him will be: “Peace;” and He has a generous reward ready for them.

O Prophet, We have sent you as a witness and a bearer of happy tidings and an admonisher, and to call (men) to God by His leave, and as a lamp resplendent. Give glad tidings to the believers that there is a great bounty for them from God.

Qur’án 33.41-8



Bábí Faith

No created thing shall ever attain its paradise unless it appeareth in its highest prescribed degree of perfection. For instance, this crystal representeth the paradise of the stone whereof its substance is composed. Likewise there are various stages in the paradise for the crystal itself... So long as it was stone it was worthless, but if it attaineth the excellence of ruby - a potentiality which is latent in it - how much a carat will it be worth? Consider likewise every created thing.

Man's highest station, however, is attained through faith in God in every Dispensation and by acceptance of what hath been revealed by Him, and not through learning; inasmuch as in every nation there are learned men who are versed in divers sciences. Nor is it attainable through wealth; for it is similarly evident that among the various classes in every nation there are those possessed of riches. Likewise are other transitory things.

True knowledge, therefore, is the knowledge of God, and this is none other than the recognition of His Manifestation in each Dispensation. Nor is there any wealth save in poverty in all save God and sanctity from aught else but Him - a state that can be realized only when demonstrated towards Him Who is the Dayspring of His Revelation. This doth not mean, however, that one ought not to yield praise unto former Revelations. On no account is this acceptable, inasmuch as it behooveth man, upon reaching the age of nineteen, to render thanksgiving for the day of his conception as an embryo. For had the embryo not existed, how could he have reached his present state? Likewise had the religion taught by Adam not existed, this Faith would not have attained its present stage. Thus consider thou the development of God's Faith until the end that hath no end.

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, pp. 88-9



Bahá'í Faith

O loved handmaidens of God! Consider not your present merits and capacities, rather fix your gaze on the favors and confirmations of the Blessed Beauty, because His everlasting grace will make of the insignificant plant a blessed tree, will turn the mirage into cool water and wine; will cause the forsaken atom to become the very essence of being, the puny one erudite in the school of knowledge. It enableth a thorny bush to give forth blossoms, and the dark earth to produce fragrant and rich hyacinths. It will transmute the stone into a ruby of great price, and fill the sea shells with brilliant pearls. It will assist a fledgling schoolchild to become a learned teacher and enable a frail embryo to reveal the reality of the verse: "Hallowed be the Lord, the Most Excellent of all creators." Verily, my Lord is powerful over things.

Abdu'l-Bahá', from the compilation "Women", pp.397-8

