

*Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom*

*Unity Vigil 2020 Liturgy*

 *January 12-19, 2020*

**Welcome/ Introduction:**

We have been taught: “Pray as if everything depended on God; act as if everything depended on you.” (Ferdinand Isserman). And so we gather here today to show our support for one another, to acknowledge our shared traditions as well as our unique languages to communicate with G-d. We gather here today to demonstrate how sisters have reached out to one another in friendship and deep respect. Most of all, we want to model inclusive and supportive behavior. We gather here together to continue our learning process, because ignorance of each other’s traditions leads to divisiveness, while knowledge of the other encourages understanding.

We believe we can build a world of compassion, if we do so together.

**Muslim Reader:

*Surah Al Fatiha* or “The Opening”**



*Bismillaah ar-Rahmanir -Raheem*

*Al hamdu lillaahi rabbil ‘alameen*

*Ar-Rahman ar-Raheem Maaliki yaumid Deen*

*Iyyaaka na’abudu wa iyyaaka nasta’een*

*Ihdinas siraatal mustaqeem*

*Siraatal ladheena an ‘amta’ alaihim*

*Ghairil maghduubi’ alaihim waladaaleen, Ameen*

**Muslim Reader:**

In the name of God, the infinitely Compassionate and Merciful.
Praise be to God, Lord of all the worlds. The Compassionate, the Merciful. Ruler on the Day of Reckoning. You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help.
Guide us on the straight path,
the path of those who have received your grace;
not the path of those who have brought down wrath, nor of those who wander astray. Ameen.

**Jewish Reader:**

**This Jewish prayer is recited as part of the daily prayer liturgy:**

Grant, O God, that we lie down in peace, and raise us up, O Guardian, to life renewed. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Guide us with Your good counsel; for Your Name’s sake, be our help. Shield us and shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings. Defend us against enemies, illness, war, famine, and sorrow. Distance us from wrongdoing. For You, God, are gracious and merciful. Guard our going and coming, to life and to peace, now and forever.

**Muslim Reader:** O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of *Allah* is the most righteous of you. Indeed, *Allah* is Knowing and Acquainted.

(From *Surah Hujarat ,*verse 13)

**Muslim Reader:** This passage explains the reason behind our diversity. Allah made us in every color, shape, culture and point of view in order that we might know each other and revel in our differences and similarities. Our diversity is a beautiful gift from the Creator.

**Jewish Reader:**

**We take a moment to look around, to acknowledge each with gratitude and to recognize the significance of this moment:**

 *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,*

*she’hecheyanu v'ki'manu v'higi-anu laz'man hazeh*.

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sustained

us, maintained us and enabled us to reach this moment in time.

**Reader Continues:** Once again, we recommit ourselves to using our heads, hearts, bodies, and spirits to serve as vocal and active forces for justice, love, and goodness in our world. (*Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning)*

**Muslim Reader:** Our Lord!  Have mercy on us from Yourself and facilitate for us the right way.  (*Surat Al Kahf*, verse 10)

**Muslim Reader:** O my Lord!  Surely, I am in desperate need of whatever good that You may send down to me.  *(Surah Al Qasas,* verse 24)

**Jewish Reader:** May You guard my tongue from evil, and my lips from speaking lies. Help me ignore the taunts of my foes, and to forgive those who wrong me. Open my heart to the wisdom of Torah, So that my soul will follow the path of righteousness. May all who study destruction have their designs frustrated. May this happen for the sake of the holiness of the world. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, remain true and loving, and be acceptable in Your sight.

**Muslim Reader:**

***Surah Al Asr* or “Time”**

 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

١ وَالْعَصْرِ1

٢ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ2

٣ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ

 وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ3

*Bismillaah ar-Rahmanir -Raheem*

*WaalAAasri*

*Inna alinsana lafee khusrin*

*Illa allatheena amanoo waAAamiloo alssalihati
watawasaw bialhaqqi watawasaw bialssabri*

*In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.*

*By Time.*

*The human being is in loss.*

*Except those who believe, and do good works, and encourage truth, and recommend patience.*

**Jewish Reader: We Stand in Unity**, (by Debra Smith, 2015)

O Eternal Presence

As we gather in this sacred space

Bless our prayers

Bless our vision of peace and unity

Bless the dreams of our hearts.

Smile down upon our united efforts

As we together strive to repair our fragile planet

And heal the wounds among ourselves.

Today we stand in unity

We pledge to stand up for one another

We vow not to be enemies!

We promise to build bridges of peace and understanding

We vow to unite for the good of our world.

We ask Your blessing and Your Presence

In our holy work

Guide us, watch over us

Shelter us beneath Your wings of peace

Let us feel Your Eternal Presence.

**All Sing:**

This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land

From the California to the New York Island

From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf stream waters

This land was made for you and me

As I went walking that ribbon of highway

I saw above me that endless skyway

Saw below me the golden valley

This land was made for you and me

This land is your land, this land is my land,

All our SOSS chapters joined hand in hand,

We come as sisters, united in love

This land was made for you and me!

**Muslim Reader:** O *Allah*!  We seek refuge in You from severe trials and hardships, to be overtaken by wretchedness, and bad fate and the rejoicing of enemies.

(From *Dua* from *Qur’an* and *Sunnah* *by Bukhari)*

**Muslim Reader:** The Prophet(Peace and Blessings of *Allah* be Upon him) said:“None of you will believe until you love for your brother what you love for yourself." **(**Related by Bukhari & Muslim**)**

**Reader:** And when the service ends and the prayers have ceased,

Help me to bring in their spirit into the world in which I live.

May I love God above all, and my neighbor as myself,

And be a living witness to the truth that never changes. (by Ronald Aigen)

**Reader:** May I use the strength of my voice and the power of my able body to stand firmly as an ally and advocate for anyone who is being persecuted, regardless of that individual's religious tradition, home country, or ethnic background. May I remember that I am called to realize the moral vision of my tradition in the world, in our nation, at this moment through my life and my actions, and may I draw courage from the many other activists who came before me, standing as loud beacons for justice. (Hakim)

**ALL:** O Guardian of life and liberty,

may our nation always merit Your protection.

Teach us to give thanks for what we have

By sharing it with those who are in need.

Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation,

And alert to the care of the earth.

May we never be lazy in the work of peace;

may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals.

Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance.

May they govern with justice and compassion.

Help us all to appreciate one another,

and to respect the many ways that we may serve You.

May our homes be safe from affliction and strife,

And our country be sound in body and spirit.

*Amen (v’ameen*) (*Mishkan T’filah*p. 376 “Prayers of Our Country.”)

**Muslim Reader:** O *Allah*!  Put affection amongst our hearts, set right our matters between ourselves, guide us to the ways of peace, save us from the darkness towards the light, save us from all kinds of indecency; the apparent as well as the hidden, and bless our hearing, our seeing, our hearts, our spouses, our children and turn in mercy upon us. (*Dua* for Reconciliation Prophetic Tradition)

**Muslim Reader**:

**First They Came for the Jew**s by Martin Niemöller

1. First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.

2. Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.

3. Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.

4. Then they came for me
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

**ALL:** Never again.

**Closing Remarks:**

**ALL Sing (optional ): song of your choice or go to closing prayer below**

**Reader:** The prayer of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom to you: ***“Almighty, help us to know that*** ***It is not our religion that divides us, it is our religion that unites us. May we leave tonight knowing that we are not alone. We are one. May the strength of our unity carry us forward and give us the courage to continue to make this world a better place. Amen and Ameen”.***