



**May 2, 2021**

**Proclaim!**

**10:00 AM**

*Zoom Room Opens for Centering and Preparation at 9:50 AM*

**Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Victor

**Opening Song**

**“I Am”**

Rev. Dr. Samora

**Reading**

**“Breathe and Proclaim”**

Rev. Maven Eve

**Special Music**

**“Laylatul Qadr”**

YouTube Video

*by Native Deen, used with permission*

<https://youtu.be/5AmqYcWjBmc>

**Message**

**Proclaim!**

Rev. Dr. Stacy

**Pastoral Prayer**

The Interfaith Temple  
Explore • Experience • Evolve



An inclusive, safe home for spiritual kinship, growth, evolution and loving support.

<b>Music</b>	<b>“I Proclaim”</b>	Rev. Dr. Samora
	<i>composed by Rev. Dr. Samora Smith, lyrics by Rev. Dr. Victor Fuhrman ©2021</i>	
<b>Interfaith Communion</b>	<i>(Please bring a bite to eat)</i>	Rev. Dr. Stacy
<b>Sacred Exchange</b>	<b>A Poem of Proclamation</b>	Rev. Dr. Victor
<b>Meditation</b>	<b>“Finding Your Voice”</b>	Rev. Dr. Samora
<b>Closing Song</b>	<b>“The Home of Our Soul”</b>	Rev. Dr. Samora
<b>Closing Blessing</b>		Rev. Dr. Stacy
<b>Announcements</b>		Rev. Dr. Victor

***Please join us for Kinship & Sharing***

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**“I Proclaim”** by Rev. Dr. Samora Smith  
*with lyrics by Rev. Dr. Victor Fuhrman exclusively for The Interfaith Temple ©2021*

**“Laylatul Qadr”** by Native Deen  
[https://youtu.be/3QMEE\\_SvLGE](https://youtu.be/3QMEE_SvLGE), used with permission.

**“I Am”** by Rev. Dr. Samora Smith and **“The Home of Our Soul”** by Rev. Dr. Samora Smith  
*with lyrics by Rev. Dr. Victor Fuhrman, were composed exclusively for The Interfaith Temple ©2021*

*Permission to play, perform, and transmit music in this service via TheInterfaithTemple.org  
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## Prayers for National Prayer Day

We share these prayers from many of the major traditions on the National Day of Prayer. May our prayers open eyes and may we see one another as sister and brother. May our prayers open minds to the realization that in our diversity, we are all children of the divine. And may our prayers open hearts so that love, understanding and compassion flows through all people and brings unity and that most precious gift, peace! Amen.

(Adapted from various sources)

**From the Christian Tradition** — “Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love, where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, Faith. Where there is despair, Hope. Where there is darkness, Light. Where there is sadness, Joy.”

**From the Jewish Tradition** — “Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. And none shall be afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.”

**From Islam** — “Allah, The Merciful, You are eternal life and everlasting peace by Your essence and attributes. The everlasting peace is from You and it returns to You. O our Sustainer! Grant us the life of true peace and usher us into the abode of peace. O Glorious and Bounteous One! You are blessed and sublime.”



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**From Buddhism** — “May all beings know happiness.

May all beings be free from suffering. May all beings dwell in equanimity, free from attachment and aversion. May all beings know peace.”

**From Hinduism** — “May there be peace in the Heavens. May there be peace on Earth. May all beings know peace. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti....Om, Peace, Peace, Peace.

**From Bahai** — “May all religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.”

**From Indigenous Peoples** —“Let us know peace.

For as long as the moon shall rise,  
For as long as the rivers shall flow,  
For as long as the sun shall shine,  
For as long as the grass shall grow,  
Let us know peace.”

**From The Feminine Divine** — “By the air that is her breath; By the fire of her bright spirit; By the waters of her womb; By the Earth that is her body; May the Peace of the Goddess always be in your heart.



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# The Eight R's of Interfaith Events

- Rule #1**     **Remember** *Ecclesiastes 3*, “For everything there is a season ...” Interfaith events are the season for community building, celebrating together, worshiping together, learning about each other, learning about ourselves, building together, mourning together, and praying together. Interfaith events ARE NOT the season for proselytizing! Make sure this is clear to all who are invited to the event. (See Rule #6) Jesus once said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, sick people do.” (Matthew 9:12) Don’t assume that just because someone doesn’t share your faith that they are sick. They may have a healthier relationship with God than you! Only God can know what is in a person’s heart.
- Rule #2**     *In all things, be Respectful.* People of other faiths are just as devoted, just as convinced of their faith as you are. The way we each worship may be different, *but the reason we worship is not.* We all share the Golden Rule! (Yes, this axiom is universal and can be found in many faiths.)
- Rule #3**     *Build Relationships first.* We can’t enter into deep issues of our faiths without knowing and respecting each other first. *Don’t try to host an interfaith dialogue before you have hosted tea.* Get to know each other. Listen to what they say. Establish relationships. Build community. Build a house! Then, when you are comfortable with each other, you can gently venture into the deeper topics.
- Rule #4**     **Research and prepare.** Learn about other faiths – and prepare your group in advance of what to expect from interfaith events. Don’t rely on materials from your own faith *about* other faiths – if you want to know what other faiths are really like, go to the source. Read the Qur’an, study the Talmud, learn about the Vedas and the sayings of Buddha, read the Bible. Take a comparative religions course – taught by a neutral professor. Invite a colleague from another faith to conduct an informative session for your faith community so that you can learn firsthand what the other religion is like. *Look for what is common between the faiths* – our commonalities go a long way toward understanding each other and reducing tensions.
- Rule #5**     **Relax!** Be genuine, be yourself, *be human.* We are all human first and foremost, religions are just our way to honor and worship (love) the mysterious Source of All That Is. Miscommunications and misunderstandings are not only possible, but likely. Almost everyone has some misinformed stereotype of another faith. However, if we are open, relaxed and comfortable with ourselves as human beings first, we can find a way to mediate disputes based on our common humanity. Humanity goes a long way toward establishing trust.
- Rule #6**     **Remove notions of right and wrong.** As far as religion goes, “the best religion is the one that makes you the best person you can be.” (*HH Dalai Lama*) That may Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Paganism, New Age, or something else. Allow others to be comfortable sharing their faith without making them feel that they are wrong. You would expect the same in return. (See Rule #1)
- Rule #7**     **Resolve to love.** Allow yourself and your community to enter into the worship or prayer of another faith. You may find that your heart opens more toward others when you allow yourself to feel the love and devotion in their prayers and practices. Love is our common bond; love of ourselves, love of others, and love of God. (See Rule #2)
- Rule #8**     **Reciprocate.** As you have invited others to share their faith with your community, accept their invitation to share with them. Your religious practices are just as foreign to people of other faiths, as their practices are to you. Not only should we welcome the stranger, but we must be willing to *be the stranger* as well. This is about community building, after all. (And remember Rule #1!)