



"May the Great-Spirit, look down upon his pitiful red children. Who created this spiritual Island now called the North American continent. The fire is life... We are creation, and part dream. We are the physical mirroring of the Great-Spirit, the Total Universe, upon this earth, our Mothers. An Indigenous Lakota, a nation strong and prosperous in the deep-most treasures of life. This realization over the ages has been deeply engraved in your pitiful red children that the hard inner core, the spirit, the Lakota, have assumed into that vision themselves, the people of "alliance." That beyond a doubt, we are here to experience. We are movement of nonviolence, a movement of a hand within, millions of season, that beyond a doubt, our Art and Sacred Pipe are the original expressions of diversity in Natural laws, a mirror of our inherent qualities. We shall overcome, which the Lakota people had established as a very way of life in the ways of health, generations and peace. We, as a nation, have a dream that one day all nations will rise up, live out the true meaning of its foundation, set of beliefs and credibility. "We hold these truths, that all men are created equal, that the Lakota people hold a high esteem for this commitment, this pledge and honor."

**Charles Fast Horse**  
Lakota Medicine Man

"As people of faith we pray:

We begin this final year of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Lord, grateful for the good and courageous man you sent to this world seventy years ago on January 15. You called him to your mountaintop and gave him a dream. In that dream, little children were not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. His quiet non-violent but determined efforts to fulfill that dream live on in us today. In his memory, dear God, we commit ourselves to become truly non-violent and peaceable people. Make us always respectful of others, open and honest, attentive to the feelings and needs of those around us, holding no grudges, challenging violence in all its forms, and willing to stand with those who are treated unfairly. This was his dream, Lord. Now this is our prayer. In your gracious providence, please bring it to fulfillment. On that great day, all people will see the glory of your coming. Amen."

**Rev. John G. Vlazny**  
Archbishop of Portland

"Glory be to Thee, O God, for Thy manifestation of love to mankind! O Thou Who art our Life and Light, guide Thy servants in Thy way, and make us rich in Thee and free from all save Thee. O God, teach us Thy Oneness and give us a realization of Thy Unity, that we may see no one save Thee. Thou art the Merciful and the Giver of bounty!  
O God, create in the hearts of Thy beloved the fire of Thy love, that it may consume the thought of everything save Thee.  
Reveal to us, O God, Thine exalted eternity that Thou hast ever been and wilt ever be, and that there is no God save Thee. Verily, in Thee will we find comfort and strength."

**-Bahá'u'lláh**  
Founder of the Bahai Faith

# Interfaith Prayers For Nonviolence

"On this sacred occasion, let us call attention to the complacencies which grip the world; the hollow observances of social decay and disequilibrium; the tacit concessions to avarice and prejudice. Let us find the courage to disclose our own part on all of this, our surrender to some higher power in the name of some nameless despair. For the only thing that is truly nameless is that which is transcendent and which ultimately demands something greater from us: that we recognize holiness within every seemingly random human gesture. That we pay attention to a young mother's stolen away aspirations for her child and for herself, and for a tall oak-of-a-man's beaten-down dignity in a darkened forest. For each of our limbs and minds deserves to reach for a domed sky above, to dream as did Brother Martin, to bear the responsibility for making the dream come into fruition in the here-and-now as well. For no lofty utopian scenes will relieve us of specific responsibilities to cure what is in front of us daily and to answer to what ails us by the minute.

May our actions be ever proud and prayerful and may our prayers get us out of the pews and onto the city's streets once again as we were in response to Martin Luther King's eloquent pleas, with joined hands and singing the hymns of peace and pursuing justice now and forevermore."

**Rabbi Joseph Wolf**  
Havurah Shalom, Portland

"With the name of Allah the Merciful Benefactor the merciful Redeemer, I openly testify there is but one creator Allah and I openly testify that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Prayer and peace be upon the Prophet.

Oh Allah Sustainer of the heavens and the earth, we seek your refuge from anxiety and grief from weakness and cowardice from laziness and stinginess from being over powered by debt and oppression of men.

Oh Allah you are peace and from you comes peace have mercy on our souls and pour down Tranquility on our hearts Grant us peace. Oh lord you who come between a man and his heart of Allah we seek refuge with you from you, Have mercy on our offspring's oh lord inspire gratitude in their hearts respect on the tongue and enlightenment in their minds.

Hold back your punishment from us oh lord and condemn us not if we forget and fall in to error.

We testify it is you who put love and peace in the heart of open enemies and make them brothers and sisters. It is yours to create yours to command and ours to obey.

In the name of Allah.

Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

1. By the Token of time through the Ages.

2. Verily Men are In a state of loss,

3. Except those who have Faith, And do righteous deeds, and join together In the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy.

**Mikal H. Shabazz**

Muslim Community Center

"Mother, Father, God, Great Mystery, we know you by many names yet we experience you as "The One Presence." We feel your infinite power, your infinite knowing, and your infinite love. Today we ask that you pour your power, wisdom and love into the hearts and minds of every living being on this planet as we pray for nonviolence.

May those in a position of leadership be empowered by your strength and courage. Help them to seek wise counsel. Remind them that love is always the answer. Dear God, assist all leaders in policy making decisions. Remind them that their actions can be for the highest and greatest good of all concerned. Help them out of the human ego and into the light of Spirit.

For those of us who are followers, Holy Spirit we welcome your wisdom. Teach us to listen with open hearts. Show us how to take action through the power of the relaxed grasp. Help us support our leaders, and help us know when to say "no" to them.

In truth, we are all leaders and followers. We are all one in the circle of life. Help us remember that You dwell in the center of that circle. May our actions today, and everyday, begin at the center. Through this divine unity, may we all know your peace. Let violence be a thing of the past. Let freedom and love rule.

Thank you God. And so it is. Amen.

**Rev. Kate Verigin**  
Nondenominational Minister  
Heart & Soul Ministries

Heavenly Father Sky and Earthly Mother Earth, when will you be reconciled? When will power and love dance in unison and fulfill that perfection spoken of in all the world's sacred texts? I believe in my deepest being that Heaven and Earth are one. Only then can all of God's children be one and celebrate their uniqueness while forgetting their differences. Only then can the dream of union and reconciliation be recycled in the human family.

I pray for peace and wisdom to come to all human hearts, whatever their external circumstances. I am not worried tonight...I believe that my heart can be at peace. I pray for the peace of reconciliation.

I pray for truth and justice in the ghetto of my being.

I pray for reconciliation in all the divisions within me.

I pray for love to pour over me and wash away all fear and pain.

I believe that I am responsible;

Able to respond to threat without fear,

Able to respond to ignorance without judgement, able to respond to weakness with compassion.

I pray for ears to hear and eyes to see. I go beyond appearances to the foundation of every event. I notice that every act of violence is a call for love. I use my wisdom, strength and inner peace to respond with love.

I believe in power. My power comes from the condition of my inner being. When I am peace, wisdom, truth, justice and love, I am invincible. I am able to respond with the greatest power of all, the power of wholeness.

I pray for reconciliation of Heaven and Earth, of men and women, of black and white, of "us" and "them", of love and power. I pray for reconciliation within my own heart.

**Rev. Diana Adams**  
New Thought Minister