



Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

www.concord-leeds.org.uk

Reg. Charity No 516339

and LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
PEACELINK GROUP



The Annual Inter-Faith Peace Service

Wednesday 13th October 2021 by Zoom

Welcome to the Annual Inter-Faith Peace Service, which has been organised by Concord in conjunction with Peacelink.

We are very grateful to the Lord Mayor (Councillor Asghar Khan), the Lady Mayoress (his wife, Mrs Robina Kosar), and the Children's Mayor (Samuel Hill) for their support. Thank you for your attendance.

We hope you will show your appreciation by giving a donation to the Lord's Mayor's Charity Appeal. Leeds

Hospitals Charity is the dedicated charity for Leeds

Teaching Hospitals. Each year they provide an additional £5 million in funding to support and make life easier for over 20,000 staff working across our local NHS hospitals.

You can donate online to the Lord Mayor's Charity at www.justgiving.com/lmca, or send a cheque payable to 'The Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal' to:

The Lord Mayor's Office, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall,
Leeds, LS1 1UR



Order of Service

Music will be played and images projected by Leeds Brahma Kumaris before the service begins.

1. Welcome by John Summerwill, Co-Chair of Concord, and silence.
2. John Summerwill introduces the Lord Mayor, Cllr Asghar Khan
3. Brief address by the Lord Mayor,

Good evening. My name is Councillor Asghar Khan and I am the Lord Mayor of Leeds. I am delighted to join your Annual Peace Service tonight and although we are still not able to come together in person it is still important that we have this opportunity to convey the important message of peace and unity.

Leeds is one of over 5,000 cities that participates in the Mayors of Peace programme and through this we have supported peace events such as the commemoration of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki event that was held in August in Park Place. I was honoured to attend this event which I found very moving and I was able to lay a wreath on behalf of the city in remembrance.

Our city has a long history of peace-making, peace people and peace action, with buildings, organisations and individuals associated with peace through the ages.

We continue to be a proud diverse multi-ethnic, multicultural city in which there is a history of good relationships between different communities. We are a City of Sanctuary and compassion and have a long standing commitment to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees fleeing from conflict and oppression. Like so many, I was saddened by the situation in Afghanistan and the council is already working with other councils across the region to welcome families to Leeds from there.

We are also fortunate to have many beautiful churches, chapels, meeting halls, mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras and temples around the city.

Every couple of years, Concord organises a Walk of Friendship visiting places of worship from several faiths, enabling people to learn something of their similarities as well as differences and to establish friendships among the different faiths. I do hope that there will be the opportunity to participate in such an event during my term of office.

It's always better to light a candle than curse the darkness and I am so pleased to see representatives from different religions across the city present and lighting candles for peace on behalf of their faith communities tonight.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of tonight's event.

I invite you now to join with me in saying a prayer of thanksgiving. It is on page 3 of your booklet. Please say the words that are in bold print.

4. PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Join in the words in bold print at home, if you like.)

For the expanding grandeur of Creation,
worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies,
filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:
We give thanks this day.

For this fragile planet earth,
its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:
We give thanks this day.

For the joy of human life,
its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:
We give thanks this day.

For our human community, our common past and future hope, our
oneness transcending all separation,
We give thanks this day.

For our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and
oppression:
We give thanks this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for
understanding of views not shared:
We give thanks this day.

For all who have laboured and suffered for a fairer world,
who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:
We give thanks this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites;
for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:
We give thanks this day.

**We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not
by our words but by our deeds.**

*Mishkan T'Filah, A Progressive Siddur, p.257
World Union for Progressive Judaism Edition*

5. Presentation by Breaking Down Barriers Ambassadors, a youth group from Harehills
6. Sue Owen briefly speaks about The World Peace Flame ®

World Peace Flame

Thank you once again to Concord for organising this very special and much treasured annual service for peace, bless you. Welcome to everyone and thank you for being here for the united purpose of peace.

We are as ever delighted to be here with the World Peace Flame and its simple message, for all, “one flame uniting people worldwide, in Peace.” We continue to be very proud of being home to England’s 1st WPF, here in Garforth, Leeds, and it continues to be a major peaceful influence in our community and schools.

This year we completed another major project which involved all of our 6 schools. Together we created the Garforth Schools World Peace Trail. This is a wonderful 8 stage peace trail, which is easily accessible, and has a Peace Stone for every country of the world. The children have painted the country flag and name on each stone, and every



one is, quite simply amazing!! The trail starts outside the Garforth Academy High School and ends at the Diamond Jubilee Garden, which is home to England’s 1st WPF. The children also produced an information sheet for each country with some very interesting and amusing facts! It has been a wonderful community project, once again bringing all of our schools together in unity and peace. The Peace Trail was officially opened on 31st July 2021 by our local councillors and is dedicated to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We invite you all to visit Garforth and walk the peace trail.

Having the pleasure of interacting with all of our schools and our young peacemakers of the future is a real joy, and soul affirming, with each one of us aspiring to ‘Be the Peace we wish to see in the world’ and I truly believe we can all be that. Thank you. Om Shante.

7. The lighting of candles by representatives of the Faith Communities in Leeds:

Bahá'í	Raquel Silvestre
Brahma Kumaris	Cherry Steinberg
Buddhist	Celia Chambers
Christian	David Randolph-Horn
Hindu	Hema Yadev
Jewish	Simon Phillips
Muslim	Anam Hussein
Pagan	Trina Taylor-Wallbank
Sikh	Harsimran Kaur & Seva Kaur

- The Children's Mayor lights a candle on behalf of all of the children of Leeds
- The Lady Mayoress lights a candle on behalf of all of the people of Leeds

8. Moment of quietness, with lights turned down

9. *All join together in saying these affirmations, led by John Summerwill. Commonwealth Day is celebrated every March. These affirmations are part of the celebration.*

- **We affirm that every person-of whatever colour, class or creed-possesses unique worth and dignity.**
- **We affirm our respect for the world and pledge that we will be its stewards by caring for every part of it.**
- **We affirm our belief in justice for everyone and peace between peoples and nations.**
- **We affirm faith and love as the foundation of all human relationships.**
- **We affirm that we each belong to our own nation and to the whole human family: to the service of both we pledge ourselves.**
- **We affirm that diversity is a gift to humanity and that all peoples are worthy of respect; in pursuit of which, we pledge to promote understanding and reconciliation in our communities and around the world.**



10. Readings by representatives of Faith Communities:

Bahá'í - Kayla Chimhanda

Oh, peoples and nations! Arise and work
and be happy! Gather together under the
tent of the unity of mankind!

...strive that your actions day by day may
be beautiful prayers. Turn towards God,
and seek always to do that which is right
and noble. Enrich the poor, raise the fallen,
comfort the sorrowful, bring healing to
the sick, reassure the fearful, rescue the
oppressed, bring hope to the hopeless,
shelter the destitute!

Bahá'í Writings

Brahma Kumari - Sarah Trueman

A Meditation for Peace

I feel peace in the soft waves on the ocean
shore

In the sleeping face of a child

In a tall tree, leaves gently rustling in a
breeze

In a golden red sunset.

I feel the peace that is inside me, when I
accept, understand and forgive myself.

I experience peace when I find gratitude
and contentment.

At the heart of who I am is peace.

I am a spiritual being, an eternal light,
unchanging, still.

I am a soul, and the core of my being is
peace.

Beyond this world is my eternal home, a
dimension of light and unending peace.

Here, I feel safe, secure.

In the home dwells the Supreme Soul, the
One who is ever peaceful, the heart of
peace for the whole world.

As I connect to this Ocean of Peace with
my thoughts, I am reminded that my true
nature is peace, the ancient memory of
peace returns.

Then connected as one family of souls
through this spirit of peace, I radiate peace
to Mother Earth and to all the souls of
the world.

Om Shanti, I am peace

Buddhist – Celia Chambers

*Metta Sutra – The Discourse on Loving-
Kindness*

This is what should be done

By one who is skilled in goodness,

And who knows the path of peace:

Let them be able and upright,

Straightforward and gentle in speech,

Humble and not conceited,

Contented and easily satisfied,

Unburdened with duties and frugal in
their ways.

Peaceful and calm and wise and skillful,

Not proud or demanding in nature.

Let them not do the slightest thing

That the wise would later reprove.

Wishing: In gladness and in safety,

May all beings be at ease.

Whatever living beings there may be;

Whether they are weak or strong,
omitting none,

The great or the mighty, medium, short
or small,

The seen and the unseen,

Those living near and far away,

Those born and to-be-born —

May all beings be at ease!

Let none deceive another,

Or despise any being in any state.

Let none through anger or ill-will

Wish harm upon another.

Even as a mother protects with her life

Her child, her only child,

So with a boundless heart

Should one cherish all living beings;

Radiating kindness over the entire world:

Spreading upwards to the skies,

And downwards to the depths;

Outwards and unbounded,

Freed from hatred and ill-will.

Whether standing or walking, seated or
lying down

Free from drowsiness,

One should sustain this recollection.

This is said to be the sublime abiding.

By not holding to fixed views,

The pure-hearted one, having clarity of
vision,

Being freed from all sense desires,

Is not born again into this world.

Christian - Catherine Margham

The Quaker Peace Testimony

Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of al. All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world. That spirit of Christ by which we are guided is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil, and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ which leads us into all truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdom of this world.

*24.04 Quaker Faith And Practice
Declaration to Charles II, 1660*

Hindu - Hema Yadev

Dear God,

Lead us from illusion to reality.

Lead us from darkness to light.

Lead us from death to immortality

Aum

May all be happy.

May all be free of disease.

May all experience the auspicious and

May all see that which is good

May no one suffer.

Aum Peace, peace, peace! (Aum, Shanti Shanti Shanti)

Dear God,

Protect us from fear

Remove all forms of vice and sorrow

Give us those virtues that are dignifying

May peace prevail everywhere

May the people always be happy

Aum, Peace, peace, peace!

(Aum. Shanti Shanti Shanti)

We are the inheritors of a beautiful blue planet. It is our home, and right now, our only home. Human life is rare. Along with

the air, soul, and water of our planet, let us strive to preserve each other. When one sees God in everyone then the sentiments of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' are born, it means, "the world is one family." Then no one is seen to be different.

Aum. Shanti Shanti Shanti

Jewish - Helen Michael

We bless the Living God who conquers strife, who removes all hatred, and brings harmony to all creation. We praise the Eternal Being we cannot see, who binds together all creatures with unseen threads of service and of love. We honour the One who has brought us from ways of cruelty and shown us the ways of kindness. We bend low before the majesty which teaches us humility and respect for the smallest things in creation. We glorify the Source of Peace, for peace is the gate to our perfection, and in perfection is our rest.

Eternal God, open our eyes to the beauty of the world and its goodness. Let us be servants of your peace which brings all life together: the love of parent and child, the loyalty of friends, and the companionship of animals and people. On this day, let us know such harmony and recognise your presence in it. With all creation we praise and unify your name. Amen.

*From Forms of Prayer for Jewish
Worship Vol 1, published by the Reform
Synagogues of Great Britain 1977.*

Muslim - Kiran Hussain

This remarked the spiritual poet Sadi shirazi :

"Have mercy upon thy feeble neighbours that thou mayest not be injured by a strong foe."

With a powerful arm and the strength of the wrist

To break the five fingers of a vulnerable man is sin.

Let him be afraid who shows no care to the fallen

Because if he falls who will wish to take

hold of his hand.
 Whoever sows bad seed and expects
 good fruit
 Has cudgelled his brains for nought and
 begotten vain imaginations.
 Extract the cotton from thy ears and
 deal justly why thy peoples needs.
 And if thou failest to do so, there is a
 day of ethical retribution.
 Remember this mantra of being :
 The sons of Adam are limbs of each
 other
 Having been created of one essence.
 When the calamity of time afflicts one
 limb
 The other limbs cannot remain at rest.
 If thou hast no sympathy for the
 troubles of others
 Thou art unworthy to be called by the
 category of a man.
 For said the prophet peace be upon
 arriving to his new community in
 Madina “ spread peace between u and
 break bread as one”...

Pagan - Trina Taylor-Wallbank

A Psalm for Gaia
Written by Dolores Stewart Riccio.

The Earth is my mother, I shall not want.
 She nurtures me in green pastures;
 she freshens me with flowing waters.
 She restores my body and awakens
 my soul.
 Although I walk in the shadow
 of changing seasons and passing time,
 I will not fear death,
 for the essence of life is within me,
 the peace and beauty of Earth comfort
 me.
 She teaches me to harvest her abundant
 gifts,
 she fills my heart with compassion,
 I drink from the cup of simple pleasures.
 As I look to the skies with wonder
 at the immensity of the universe,
 I know I am blessed beyond measure
 to live all the days of my life
 in the bountiful house of Gaia.
 Blessed Be!

Sikh - Gurmukh Singh Deagon

This Shabad is by Guru Amar Daas Ji in
 Raag Bilaaval
 Pannaa (Page) 853 of Guru Granth Shaib Ji,
 Sikh World Peace Prayer
 Salok, Third Mehla:
 The world is going up in flames - shower
 it with Your Mercy, and save it!
 Save it, and deliver it, by whatever method
 it takes.
 The True Guru has shown the way to
 peace, contemplating the True Word of
 the Shabad.

Nanak knows no other than the Lord, the
 Forgiving Lord. | | | |

Sikh Prayer for the Environment. (Page) 8
 of Guru Granth Shaib Ji,

Shalok:
 Air is the Guru, Water is the Father, and
 Earth is the Great Mother of all.
 Day and night are the two nurses, in
 whose lap all the world is at play.
 Good deeds and bad deeds-the record
 is read out in the Presence of the Lord
 of Dharma.

According to their own actions, some
 are drawn closer, and some are driven
 farther away.

Those who have meditated on the Naam,
 the Name of the Lord, and departed after
 having worked by the sweat of their brows
 O Nanak, their faces are radiant in the
 Court of the Lord, and many are saved
 along with them! | | | |

11. Buddhist Chanting interlude by David Midgley and Jay Simpson

Mantra of Tara, the female Buddha of Compassion, to bring swift help whenever needed and overcome obstacles: OMTARETUTTARETURE SOHA

Mantra of the Medicine Buddha, to bring healing and success: TAYATA OM BEKANDZE BEKANDZE MAHA BEKANDZE BEKANDZE RANDZA SAMUDGATE SOHA

Mantra of Shakyamuni Buddha (the historical Buddha), to bring spiritual understanding. TAYATA OM MUNI MUNI MAHAMUNIYE SOHA

12. Prayers

(Join in the words in bold print at home, if you like.)

The Ongoing Pandemic Situation led by Cynthia Dickinson

We grieve for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic; for those separated from family and friends for months at a time; for livelihoods adversely affected, and for those whose mental and physical health have suffered. Be alongside them in their sorrow, and as the world returns to some sort of normality may they not be forgotten. We give thanks for the heroic efforts of those who have worked tirelessly in research and in the medical profession to bring healing and comfort to those affected by the coronavirus, and for those who have supported the vulnerable and the lonely.

Make us more compassionate and loving people to care for each other as you would have us do. Amen.

*Susan Gale – Methodist Peace Fellowship.
In the Week of Prayer For World Peace 2021-2022 booklet.*

Hema Yadev reads a Hindu prayer for peace

Dear God,

May the heavens be peaceful.

May space and the sky be peaceful.

May peace spread over the entire Earth and pervade the waters.

May peace glow in all herbs and vegetation.

May there be peace in the Absolute.

May there be peace everywhere and always –

Peace and nothing but peace.

May peace grow within in us.

Aum, Peace, Peace, Peace. **Aum, Shanti Shanti Shanti**

13. Chair's final comments

Chair reads a prayer of blessing:

God, keep our tongues from causing harm and our lips from telling lies.
Let us be silent if people curse us; our souls still humble and at peace
with all.

Open our hearts to wise teaching and give us the will to practise it.
May the plans and schemes of those who wish us harm come to
nothing.

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our
hearts be acceptable to you,**

O God, our rock and our redeemer.

**May the Maker of peace in the highest bring this peace upon
us and upon all the world. Amen.**

*Adapted from Shabbat Morning Service in
Forms of Prayer, The Movement for Reform Judaism*

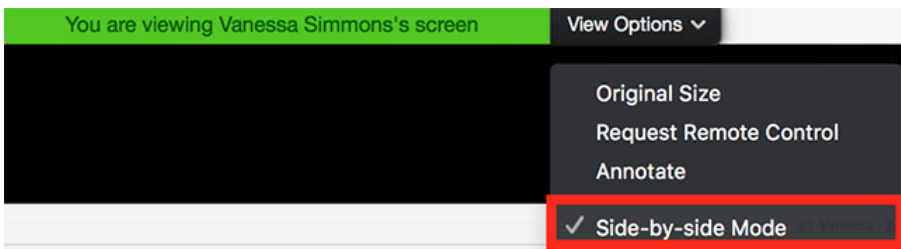
Shalom, salaam, shanti, peace be with you.

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING

1. You will need Zoom Client on your computer and a webcam mic and speaker, or a smartphone. If you haven't installed it, do so well before the meeting to give yourself time to get to know it. Zoom is free. You can install it by finding it on Google search or seeking <https://zoom.us/download> . Choose the version suitable for your device.
2. If you are on a computer you can check that your webcam, speakers and microphone are working. Open Zoom to its Home Page and then click on the Settings icon (a cog wheel) on the top right side of the screen. You can then try out different settings and run tests. While you're there:
select Share Screen from the menu and tick
 - Maximise Zoom window,
 - Scale to fit shared content, and
 - Side-by-side mode.You'll then be able to see the text of the service as well as the participants.
3. The virtual doors will be open from 7.15. Click on the link for the service and you'll be admitted. There will be images and music to create an atmosphere before the service begins.

MAKING THE MOST OF ZOOM

The best way to share in the Peace Service will be on a computer in Side-by-Side Mode. This will allow you to see the full text of the words being spoken on the left side of your screen and the faces of the speakers on the right. It may not be possible on a smartphone. When the host makes a shared screen available you'll see a green bar at the top of the screen like this:



Click on View Options and choose Side-by-side Mode. This will happen automatically if you have set it to do so as in paragraph 2 above. The shared screen will appear on the left and the speaker will appear on the right. Hover your pointer over the boundary between the shared screen and participants' video until your pointer changes to a double arrow and you see a grey line separating both views. Click and drag the separator to adjust the size of each view. Click Speaker View or Gallery View at the top to switch between the two. To exit Side-by-side Mode, click View Options, then uncheck the Side-by-side Mode option. The video of the speaker will now display at the top of the screen, with the shared screen in the centre of the window.

Concord - Leeds Interfaith Fellowship

Special thanks to Jay Anderson for hosting the Zoom meeting, and to Manish Patel, Susan Balmforth and Valerie Bowker of the Brahma Kumaris for background music and images and the setting up of the candles.