

## **Prayers for Interfaith Gatherings**

The society in which we live is increasingly described as “multicultural.” This means not only that our own church is composed more and more of people of many racial and cultural backgrounds, but also that we are surrounded by people who are nurtured in other religious traditions. We may expect to share with Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, and others in social and civic occasions when it is appropriate for prayer to be offered in terms which are accessible to all those who seek and find God in creation and in the experience of transcendence. Such prayer may include invocations at the beginning of a ceremony or conference, blessings, and thanksgiving before and after sharing food. The following prayers are provided for such occasions, and also as models for those who must prepare prayers for particular circumstances.

### **Concerning the Occasion**

*These prayers may be used at meetings of Christians and people of other religious traditions. Other prayers may be used, but care should be taken to ensure that they are not offensive to any who are present.*

# Prayers for Interfaith Gatherings

## Invocations

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
whose goodness fills our hearts with joy.  
Blessed are you,  
who have brought us together this day  
to work in harmony and peace.  
Strengthen us with your grace and wisdom  
for you are God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

In you, Lord our God,  
all things have their beginning, continuation, and end.  
Grace us with your saving presence,  
aid us with your constant help  
and let us glorify you,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gracious God, may everything we do  
begin with your inspiration  
and continue with your help,  
so that all our prayers and works  
may begin in you  
and by you be happily ended.  
Glory and praise to you,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Blessings

May the God of every grace and blessing  
grant you joy and peace.  
May you rejoice in God's protection,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

May God strengthen you  
and bring your work to completion.  
May hope accompany your journey  
through the days to come.  
May God's abiding presence be with you  
all the days of your life. **Amen.**

May the Lord bless you and take care of you.  
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;  
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### **Grace at Meals**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
ruler of the universe;  
you give us food from the earth. **Amen.**

Creator of the universe,  
you give us this gift of food  
to nourish us and give us life.  
Bless this food that you have made  
and human hands have prepared.  
May it satisfy our hunger,  
and in sharing it together  
may we come closer to one another.  
Blessed are you for food and for life. **Amen.**

For what we are about to receive,  
may God make us truly thankful. **Amen.**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
**And you give them their food in due season.**

You open wide your hand  
**And satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use  
and bless us to your service,  
and make us ever mindful of the needs of others. **Amen.**

For this our daily food,  
and for every gift which comes from you, O God,  
we bless your holy name. **Amen.**

For these and all our blessings,  
God's holy name be praised. **Amen.**

Lord, may our fellowship be the revelation of your presence  
and turn our daily bread into bread of life. **Amen.**

*After a meal*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
ruler of the universe;  
we have shared of your bounty,  
and through your goodness we live. **Amen.**