

## Remember 9/11

Let us pray for those who most profoundly still suffer the consequences of the terrorist attacks.

Knowing our need for compassion and unity, let us delve into our own spiritual traditions while reflecting on beautiful words from our neighbors' religions, as spoken at the Washington Cathedral on the 15th anniversary of the attacks:

“The Buddhist Tradition: Sutra of the Wise and the Foolish: Buddha Abandon evil doing. Practice virtue well. Master your own mind. Do not take lightly small misdeeds. Believing they can do no harm: Even a tiny spark of fire can set alight a mountain of hay. Do not take lightly small good deeds, believing they can hardly help: For drops of water one by one in time can fill a giant pot.

The Hindu Tradition Shrimad Bhagavatam: Canto 5, Chapter 18, Verse 9 May the entire universe be blessed with peace and hope. May everyone driven by envy and enmity become pacified and reconciled. May all living beings develop abiding concern for the welfare of others. May our own hearts and minds be filled with purity and serenity. May all these blessings flow naturally from this supreme benediction: may our attention become spontaneously absorbed in the rapture of pure love unto the transcendent Lord.

The Sikh Tradition Jagat Jalanda Rakh Lai, Apni Kirpa Dhar The world is on fire (due to avariciousness, ego, self-righteousness and possessiveness). O God, please save it with Your benevolence. Through whichever door one comes to you! Embrace them. The true Guru has revealed that those who meditate, and reflect on the Name of God are imbued with bliss. Without the Supreme Lord, says Nanak, There is no one to bless us with forgiveness. One who longs for all comforts and rewards should practice Truth...Do not cause any being to suffer, and you shall go to your true home with honor. Nanak speaks of the Purifier of sinners, the Creator, the Primal Being

The Jewish Tradition: Avot DeRabbi Natan 4:5 Once Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai was walking with Rabbi Yehoshua in Jerusalem and they saw the ruins of the Holy Temple that was destroyed by the Romans. Said Rabbi Yehoshua: “Alas for us that the Temple is destroyed - the only place in the world where we can find atonement with God!” Said Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai to him: “My son, do not be distressed. There is another way back to God that is just like the Temple. And what is that way? It is in Acts of Loving kindness, as it is written (Hosea 6:6) ‘It is Love that I desire, not sacrifices.’”

The Muslim Tradition Holy Qu’ran Fatir 35:10 and Fussilat 41:34-35 In the Name of God, most gracious, most merciful. Lord, you said and your words are true: If any do seek for glory and power, to God belongs all glory and power. To him mount up all words of purity. He exalts all righteous deeds. But those that lay the plots of evil, for them is a terrible penalty; and the plotting of such will he not abide. Goodness and evil are not equal. Repel the evil with the good. Then will he between whom and you was hatred become as it were your friend and intimate. But no one will be granted such goodness except those who exercise patience and restraint, none but persons of the greatest good fortune.

The Christian Tradition: Matthew 5:2-12a Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”