



# Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP  
[www.concord-leeds.org.uk](http://www.concord-leeds.org.uk)  
Reg. Charity No 516339

and LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
PEACELINK GROUP



## The Annual Inter-Faith Peace Service

**Wednesday 24th October 2018**  
**The Banquet Hall, Leeds Civic Hall**

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

**We are grateful to Leeds City Council for the use of the Civic Hall and to Councillors Graham and Pat Latty, Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, for their support. Thank you for your attendance.**



**We hope you will show your appreciation by putting a donation in the bucket at the door on your way out for the Lord's Mayor's Charity Appeal. *St Gemma's Hospice* supports people with cancer and other life-threatening diseases, free-of-charge. It is open to patients of all beliefs, religions and cultures.**



## Order of Service

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

- Welcome by John Summerwill, Chair of Concord, and silence.
- John Summerwill introduces the Lord Mayor, Cllr Graham Letty
- Brief address by the Lord Mayor, who leads the—

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*(audience please say the words in **bold print**)*

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,  
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.**

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

- Students from Abbey Grange CofE Academy share their thoughts on the meaning of ‘peace’ and imagine a world with peace. Arranged by the Chaplain, Kay Brown.
- Sue Owen briefly explains The World Peace Flame ®

## World Peace Flame

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Concord for all that you do and for hosting this service every year. It is our pleasure to be here once again with the World Peace Flame

When the World Peace Flame was created in 1999 the dream was as simple as it is ambitious—one flame uniting people worldwide. I believe the World Peace Flame represents the light and peace which resides in each one of us.

We are delighted that Garforth Leeds became the first town in England last year to install England’s first World Peace Flame monument. The project is a community project and I am very pleased to say Garforth is happily embracing this flame of peace.

We continue to have amazing support from our Garforth in Bloom group, our local councillors and our schools and local people. We have been welcomed in all five of our primary schools and now into the high school with the message of peace and the power of this amazing flame by presenting peace assemblies. We have given out over 3000 World Peace Flame candles to the children with the simple message that we can all be the peace we wish to see in the world.

We are also aiming to work with schools on an ongoing basis with different peace projects. Many of the schools are inspired with the idea of a peace wall, peace corner and of their own peace garden and peace pathway like the one in the Hague. This is outside the Peace Palace alongside the World Peace Flame monument and the pathway was created in 2004 with stones of significance from all countries of the world. The schools like the idea of creating their own and bonding in peace with schools around the

world although it could be a very lengthy project!

We are also delighted to say our Garforth schools will be part of the first Garforth annual peace lantern walk. This will take place on the 8th of November and will involve the children making their own peace lantern and walking to the Garforth Peace Flame and reflecting on peace and a dedication for Armistice Day and the hundredth anniversary of the end of world War one in peace.

York Minster has the World Peace Flame on display for the whole of this year as a symbol of peace for this same anniversary. Also in November the Royal Armouries in Leeds will display, for the eighth year in succession, this amazing flame of peace again reflecting upon peace and Armistice Day.

Our two local villages, Scholes and Barwick in Elmet, are also in the process of creating their own WPF monuments too.

I believe gatherings such as this, where we can all honour and respect each other and each other’s beliefs in peace add to the peace in the world, so thank you all.

I invite you all to take several World Peace Flame candles away with you today even if you have taken one previously, and pass these on to friends, family, colleagues, anyone who may be troubled and in need of peace. Each candle is lit from this precious flame of peace and every candle it lies becomes another world peace flame, thus passing it on.

I believe we all are able to be the peace we wish to see in the world. Thank you for all making a difference to peace. OM SHANTI.



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

Bahá'í	Olavo Silvestre
Brahma Kumari	Susan Balmforth
Buddhist	John Nottingham
Christian	Paul Granger
Hindu	Sundar S. Surah
Jewish	Hannah Bloom
Muslim	Larna Nazzal
Pagan	Brian Willmot
Sikh	Kamalpreet Kaur



- The Lady Mayoress lights a candle on behalf of all of the people of Leeds
- Moment of quietness, with lights turned down
- All stand to say 'Prayer for Commitment', led by the Chair:  
*(please say the words in **bold print**)*

### PRAYER FOR COMMITMENT

In the spirit of love and compassion, let us pray.

Spirit of Life, gods of many names,

**be in our hearts and minds as we come together today to pray for our world.**

We come as people of privilege, grateful for this blessing, and hopeful for our future.

**Let us know that each from our own tradition comes today to lift our spirit in unity.**

Knowing that we are part of an interconnected web of life,

**let us acknowledge and embrace our oneness.**

We pray that we may be loving and able stewards of this world.

**We pray that we acknowledge our differences as we seek out our common ground,**

**each of us working toward the good of all.**

We recognize that there is hurt and sorrow, deeds that confound us, and actions for which we can find no justification.

**Yet we also know that there is untold good in those who work every day for the benefit of all people. Let us stand with them.**

We pray that while we recognize the occasional tiredness in our bones and in our hearts,

that we call upon the strength of our higher power that we might be the best person that we are called to be.

**Let us be the good we want to see in others. Let us work to be the change that we seek.**

**As we renew these goals in our hearts, let us say, Amen.**

*Claudene (Deane) Oliva (adapted)*

• Readings by representatives of Faith Communities:

**Bahá'í - Joel Silvestre**

"This is the Day in which God's most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things. It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness. It behoveth them to cleave to whatsoever will, in this Day, be conducive to the exaltation of their stations, and to the promotion of their best interests. Happy are those whom the all-glorious Pen was moved to remember, and "Blessed are those men whose names, by virtue of Our inscrutable decree, We have preferred to conceal.

Beseech ye the one true God to grant that all men may be graciously assisted to fulfil that which is acceptable in Our sight. Soon will the present-day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead. Verily, thy Lord speaketh the truth, and is the Knower of things unseen." Bahá'u'lláh

Olavo Silvestre will say in Portuguese:

"Há quem remova as dificuldades a não ser Deus? Dize: Louvado seja Deus! Ele é Deus! Todos são Seus servos e todos aquiescem ao Seu mandamento!" O Bab

**Brahma Kumari - Cherry Steinberg**

The Tree of Humanity

Imagine a tree, strong, tall and sturdy. From a distance the leaves all look the same, but as you get closer, you realise that each leaf is slightly different from its neighbour. Each is attached to a twig and a branch. Each branch connects to the trunk. One trunk. Many leaves.

Now consider this; Each leaf on this tree represents a person, and the tree itself represents the world. It's the Tree of Humanity. A tree made up of many individuals, who are deeply connected, both to each other and to the One Seed. The One who gives love and power to all.

When you meditate, you leave behind the world of matter and form in order to reach inside yourself. I invite you to do that now. Let go of the form that others can see, the form of your body. Let go of your name and colour of your skin and connect with the spark of consciousness that lies inside you. Consider for a moment that you are that spark. The soul, pure and simple. You the soul, live within your body and you look out at the world through your eyes. Peace, Love and Wisdom are a part of your very nature.

Perhaps now, it's easier to see that each of us is like

a leaf on the tree of humanity. Individuals, yet deeply connected.

**Buddhist - John Nottingham**

'Taking by means of compassion ' from Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso - Eight Steps to Happiness.

For non-humans, such as animals or even gods, suffering only causes them distress or unhappiness, and they cannot learn anything from their pain. By contrast humans who have met Buddhadharma can learn a

great deal from their suffering. For us, suffering, and the suffering of the world, can be a great incentive to develop renunciation, compassion, and bodichitta, and can encourage us to engage in sincere purification practice.

Understanding the good qualities of suffering, and the suffering of the world, we should develop joy at our opportunity to practise taking by means of compassion, and so influence the world for good by spreading peace.

**Christian - Iby Knill**

God and Father of all, grant to us who deal with words and images, such a reverence for thee, that through careful and honest work, we may keep the coinage of our language sound.

Give us humility to realize, not to be perfect but to be clear, not to be infallible but to be fair.

Let us speak sincerely where many listen, to write truthfully what many read so that we all may make the heart of people wise, their minds sound and their actions righteous.

Almighty God, in whose hands lies the destiny of people and nations, let not our hopes perish.

Holy and life-giving Spirit, enable us by thy grace to root out from our common life the bitterness of ancient wrongs .

Save us from the tyranny of history and set us free in a new obedience to serve each other in the present hour.

Accepting the redemption wrought for us, we believe that all our sins of yesterday are covered by thy mercy, grant us therefore grace and courage to give and to receive the forgiveness which alone can heal yesterday's and today's wounds.

Draw us, O Lord, towards loving kindness and guide us into the way of peace.

God is with you when the way is dark and life seems cold.

God is with you when the body is weak and you feel old

God is with you when doubts arise and fears descend

God is with you forever, my friends.

### **Hindu - Usha Bhardwaj**

The ultimate goal for Hinduism is to establish Peace. Peace is not achieved by material fulfilment but also, it's the goal of spiritual attainment.

In the Hindu scriptures the Supreme Lord is described as Sac-cid-ananda. Sac means "eternal" "cid means "full knowledge" and ananda means "joyful". The living entity is a minute particle of Sac-cid-ananda (Supreme Lord) and therefore he has natural desire for joyfulness, that is spiritual in quality. It's attained by being contented not by being greedy.

We praying

Oh Lord of the whole universe

He reaps the fruits of thy Love

Free from all the Worldly problems

Guardian of all our hopes

Thou art Godly perfection

Omnipotent master of all

Supreme soul of all creation

Thou art an ocean of Mercy

Gracious protector of all

Grant us thy divine grace

Thou art beyond all perception

Guide us along the path to Thee

Friends of the helpless and feeble

Benevolent Saviour of all

Offer us thy hands of compassion

Surmounting the earthly desires

O Lord, free from the sins of this life

Undivided faith and devotion

In eternal service into Thee

O Lord of the whole Universe

All Thy devotees' agonies and sorrows

Instantly Thou banishing

OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI

### **Jewish - Hilary Curwin**

May He whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom bless Our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family, her advisers and her counsellors.

May He give His wisdom to the government of the country, to all who lead it and to all who have responsibility for its safety and welfare. May He give us all strength to do our duty, and to love to do it well, so that justice and kindness may dwell in our land. May His peace be in our hearts, so that every community of our nation may meet in understanding and respect, united by love and goodness, and keeping far from violence and strife. Together may we work for peace and justice among the nations, and may we see our children live in peace. So may this kingdom find its honour and greatness in the work of redemption, and the building of God's kingdom here on earth. May this be His will. Amen.

### **Muslim - Abdullah Janabi**

"The perfect Muslim is he whose hand and tongue others are safe from." Such prophet verse the medieval poet-theologian saadi shirazi would ponder as he scribed his famous poem: Bani adam

"Oh sons of Adam are limbs of each other,

Having been created of one essence.

When the calamity of time affects one limb

The other limbs cannot remain at rest.

If you have no sympathy for the troubles of others,

You are unworthy to be called by the name of a Human."

### **Pagan - Jeff Grantschuk**

May there be peace

May there be peace in the East.

May there be peace in the South.

May there be peace in the West.

May there be peace in the North.

May there be peace throughout the whole world.

Deep within the still centre of your being may you find peace.

Silently in the quiet of this hall may we share peace.

Let there be peace in your mind

May there be Love in your heart

Gently within the greater circle of human kind may you radiate peace.

May the blessings of peace and love be amongst you all.

So mote it be.

## Sikh - Gurmukh Singh Deagon

This Shabad(Stanza) has been written by the Third Guru Nanak Dev Ji de Jot, Guru Amar Das Ji and is an extract from Guru Granth Sahib Ji - Page 560

Wadahans, Third Mehl:

My tongue is intuitively attracted to the taste of the Lord.

My mind is satisfied, meditating on the Name of the Lord. || 1 ||

Lasting peace is obtained, contemplating the Shabad, the True Word of God.

I am forever a sacrifice to my True Guru. || 1 || Pause ||

My eyes are content, lovingly focused on the One Lord.

My mind is content, having forsaken the love of duality. || 2 ||

The frame of my body is at peace, through the Shabad, and the Name of the Lord.

The fragrance of the Naam permeates my heart.

|| 3 ||

O Nanak, one who has such great destiny written upon his forehead,

through the Bani of the Guru's Word, easily and intuitively becomes free of desire. || 4 || 7 ||

- Musical interlude by Parriss Elextra aka Prema Mayi, singer songwriter and spiritual musician, a member of the Hare Krishna movement in Hinduism, who will be performing some of her songs.
- All stand to read 'Together', led by the Chair  
(Please join in saying the words in **bold print**.)

## TOGETHER

Creator and upholder of the Universe, we gather in awe before you,  
**impelled by our longing for peace and harmony among all human beings.**

Here we are –  
children of many traditions,  
**inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstandings,  
of great hopes and humble successes.**

Here we meet –  
in memory and truth,  
**in courage and mutual trust,  
in love and promise.**

In that which we share,  
let us see the common prayer for peace;  
**in that in which we differ,  
let us respect the difference;**  
in our unity and our differences,  
**let us know the uniqueness that is Ultimate Reality.**

May our courage match our convictions,  
**and our integrity match our hope.**

*Continued overleaf*

may our faith bring us closer to each other  
**and may be bring blessing to the lives of those about us.**

May our prayers find fulfilment,  
and rain upon us as the gift of peace.

**May these words transform us  
and all those whom our lives touch.**

*(Uniting Church in Australia, amended)*

- Chair's final comments
- All say together a Zoroastrian prayer, led by the Chair:

**We pray to God  
that understanding will triumph over ignorance  
That generosity will triumph over indifference  
That trust will triumph over contempt  
And that truth will triumph over falsehood.**

- The Chair invites everyone to talk to a stranger.  
Greetings to one another:  
**Shalom, salaam, shanti, peace be with you.**

---

*Would all speakers, readers, candle-lighters, musicians and organisers  
please stay in the room until a photograph has been taken.*

*Please contribute to the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal on your way out.*

*Special thanks to Manish Patel, Susan Balmforth and Valerie Bowker of  
the Brahma Kumaris for sound control, background music and images  
and the setting up of the candles.*

**Concord - Leeds Interfaith Fellowship**  
*Chair:* John S. Summerwill (0113 269 7895)  
*email:* [chair@concord-leeds.org.uk](mailto:chair@concord-leeds.org.uk)