

Exchanging greetings of peace in ritual and liturgical settings

The people and traditions that gather in the Emmanuel College Chapel practice different rituals of greeting, with or without words of and gestures of peace or mindfulness.

For example, some Christians may choose to shake hands, or embrace, with words such as “[The] Peace [of Christ] be with you.”

Some Muslims may prefer a more modest nod of acknowledgement without touching, particularly between men and women, saying “As-salamu ‘alaykum.”

Some Buddhists may choose to offer a gentle bow, with or without “Namaste.”

You are invited to be sensitive to your neighbours’ religious and cultural practices. For example, you may wish to keep your hands at your side or visibly clasped together if you prefer not to touch when greeting another ritually/liturgically.

While we may be a little awkward as we learn one another’s customs, the effort at such learning and mutual hospitality is always worth it!

Christian:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Muslim:

As-salamu ‘alaykum. [Peace be upon you.]

Wa-‘alaykum as-salam.

[And may peace also be upon you.]

Buddhist:

(with hands together and bowing)

Namaste. [I bow to (the Divine in) you.]

Namaste.

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