

MIDDAY PRAYER VIGIL

*for all those affected by the shooting at the
Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec*

Prayer and Lamentation Condolence and Solidarity Resistance and Hope

. . . we gather in silence . . .

Greeting: [Bill]

As-salamu ‘alaykum.

Wa-‘alaykum as-salam.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome to this brief Midday Prayer Vigil. We are gathered here to pause for a time of prayer and lamentation, condolence and solidarity, resistance and hope.

Prayer and Lamentation

We come together in prayer—the very thing which our Muslim siblings were engaged in on Sunday evening at their Muslim Cultural Centre in Quebec.

We gather voice to our lament. Our Abrahamic traditions show us that we can bring the full range of human emotions to our prayers. And so we bring even our feelings of anger and rage to God, joining in the prayer of so many who have gone before us, who have also cried out, “How, long, O Lord; how long?”

And so I invite you, as we gather, to join in a song of lamentation, to give voice to what so many are feeling. Please remain seated as we sing the first 3 verses of number 73 in your song books.

Song: # 73 (verses 1-3) “O God, Why Are You Silent?”

The Opening: Qur'an 1:1-7 (Surat al-Fatiha) [Asma Ali]

In the name of God, the most compassionate the most merciful,
Praise be to God, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds,
most compassionate, most merciful, master of the Day of Judgment.
It is you we worship, it is you we ask for help.
Show us the straight way.

The way of those on whom you have bestowed your grace,
those who are not overwhelmed with anger nor those who go astray.

Reading: Qur'an 41:36-39 (from Surat Fussilat) [Asma Ali]

If a prompting from Satan sowing discord should stir you,
seek refuge with God: He is the All Hearing and the All Knowing.
The night, the day, the sun, the moon, are only a few of His signs.
Do not bow down in worship to the sun or the moon,
but bow down to God who created them, if it is truly Him that you worship.
If the disbelievers are too arrogant, [remember]
those who are with your Lord glorify Him tirelessly night and day.
Another of His signs is this:
you see the earth lying desolate, but when We send water down on to it,
it stirs and grows.
He who gives it life will certainly give life to the dead.
He has power over everything.

... silence ...

Condolence and Solidarity [Pam]

We gather also to express our condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed and injured—as these candles before us remind us: 6 persons killed, 19 injured, 5 of them seriously.

Before you leave today, please take a moment to sign the book of condolences at the back of the chapel, which we will send to the Muslim Cultural Centre in Quebec as an expression of our solidarity and support. I invite you now into a time of silent prayer and meditation in memory of those who were killed and injured, their families and friends, during which we will name those who were killed:

. . . *silence* . . .

Ibrahima Barry
Mamadou Tanou Barry
Khaled Belkacemi
Abdelkrim Hassane
Azzedine Soufiane
Aboubaker Thabi

. . . *silence* . . .

Prayer: *in unison* [Pam]

Let us join together in prayer:

**Liberating God,
you see acts of violence and weep.
You see the suffering of those killed and injured
while at prayer in Quebec,
their families and friends, their neighbours and community.
You weep with them in the face of hatred and violence.
You hear their cries
as you hear the cries of all your children.
Enfold them in your love.
Protect us all from violence,
keep us safe from hate,
and restore us to the path
of tranquility and peace.
Amen.**

Resistance and Hope [Bill]

We also gather today to embody our resistance and kindle our hope: to resist all those forces which would seek to divide neighbour from neighbour by building walls of suspicion, distrust and fear based on race, religion or national origin. And so our resistance is also an affirmation of God's creative gift of cultural difference and religious diversity. Such resistance is, for us, an act of hope.

Reading: Matthew 5:2-12 [Bill]

Then 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,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’

Song: # 73 (verses 4-5) “O God, Why Are You Silent?”

I invite you to stand as you’re able and sing together verses 4 & 5 of # 73.

Closing Prayer: *in unison* [Bill]

I invite you to join in with me in the Closing Prayer:

**Creator God,
gentle in power
and strong in tenderness:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all people
your passion for peace
and your will for justice,
that we may fearlessly contend
against the powers of death
and restrain evil’s rage
with your love.
Amen.**

... feel free to remain for prayer and meditation for as long as you wish. . .

... we depart in silence . . .