

# **Emmanuel Interfaith Service, Feb 6, 2019**

## ***Set Up***

***10 am:*** Becca to set up **chapel** for Christian worship and tea afterwards.

***Details TBC.*** Haley to assist with cups, plates for cookies, tea and teapots?

***11am:*** Buddhist students and Becca to gather materials (see below) to be gathered in the Multifaith Room, to be transported downstairs at 12 noon. Two tables, red flowered cloth, music stand, white cloth, candle, plate, image of Buddha and cushions, plus computer and speaker.

## ***12-12:15: Main Lobby***

***Worship team to assist:*** Setup chairs (10-12, to be obtained from the Center for religion and its context and nearby classrooms) and red cushions in rows facing eastward towards a table under archway.

***On the table covered in red flower cloth from vestry, setup up candle, and plate from vestry. Set up music stand draped in white cloth from vestry to display framed Buddha image from Multifaith Room to be setup behind altar table.***

***[Valerie to bring in silk flowers, and oranges; Crystal to bring in water offering bowl for altar.]***

***[Becca to set up side table for laptop and portable speaker to play two audio clips]***

## **Lunar New Year Lunch 12:15-1:30**

### **Welcome: Becca**

***Becca will invite all present to participate as they feel comfortable. She will thank all the student organizers.***

***Becca will ensure that she has the bell for the procession between spaces.***

## **Introduction: Read by Valerie De Souza**

The United Nations General Assembly declared this first week of February, World Interfaith Harmony Week, a time when people of different faiths get to know each other and build a foundation for more peaceful and friendly communities through respect for religious identities, understanding through knowledge, and a commitment to the common good.

So, we invite you to come on a chanting journey with us as we explore prayer through chanting in the faith traditions of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity at Emmanuel College. We will begin shortly in the Main Lobby with chanting in a Buddhist tradition, then travel to the Muslim Prayer Room on the ground floor to reflect on chant in a Muslim tradition, and finally travel to the Chapel on the 3rd Floor for Christian prayer and chanting. This will immediately be followed by tea and time to talk with one another about what we experienced today. Transitions from one location to the next will be conducted without words and accompanied by the ringing of a bell.

You are invited to participate in each faith tradition's prayers as much or as little as you feel comfortable or you can just observe. We ask that you keep an open mind and an open heart with a willingness to learn from one another, remembering the three UN principles for World Interfaith Harmony Week: respect, understanding and action.

## **Territorial Acknowledgement**

Person one (Buddhist – TBD)

Since time immemorial, many different peoples have called this land home. The north shore of Lake Ontario has been inhabited by the Huron, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabek peoples: the Wendat, the Petun, the Seneca, the Ojibwe, the Mississaugas. Today, Toronto and the surrounding area are home to many indigenous people and nations.

Person two (Muslim – TBD)

We each have our own personal ties to this land, and to other lands. I invite you now to turn to someone seated near you and spend a couple of minutes sharing your stories—of how you or your ancestors came to be here, of your connections to this land and to other lands that you have roots in. At the sound of the bell, we will call you back together.

Long ago, Ojibwe and Haudenosaunee nations and their allies agreed to share this land peacefully. The image they used to seal this agreement was of a dish with one spoon: one land, to be shared by all.

Person Three (Christian – TBD)

Since then, however, the land has not always been shared. Indigenous peoples have been displaced; lands and waters have been abused; children have been taken from their families; women and girls have been assaulted and murdered; communities have been destroyed; and ways of being have been stamped out. The violence of colonization has deeply wounded the land and its indigenous peoples. Today, much of that violence continues.

All three together

Together, we acknowledge our different connections to this land, and we strive to live rightly, with the land and with each other.

Becca: I invite you now to leave this space quietly as we move together to the Main Lobby for chanting in the Buddhist Tradition, accompanied by a bell.

*We move to the main lobby.*

*Worship team to be welcoming and to assist others to get settled. Many will be seating on cushions. Some will be seated on chairs and benches. If we have more than 40 people some may need to stand, but it will only be for 15 minutes.*

# Buddhist Chanting

*Youtube video will be playing for all to hear (not see) as people settle and Valerie welcomes them.*

## ***Sanskrit version of Heart Sutra***

*(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcas0pl6-tM> by Imee Ooi) to be playing as people gather in space to set the atmosphere and bless the space, then turn down volume as Valerie speaks Welcome, but keep the chant playing.*

**Welcome:** Valerie [6 minutes]

*Valerie to welcome participants to the Buddhist chanting service and introduce Buddhist students leading the service – Andrea Blackler, Crystal Beaudoin and Eleanor Pontoriero.*

We recognize that there are many Buddhisms, or branches of Buddhism, each with different and rich ways of doing their spiritual practices. [\*disclosure –faith expressions & lay] While we respect and honour the different Buddhisms, we cannot incorporate all of them in one short service.

Today’s service will be focused on using chanting to reflect on the **Heart Sutra**, which is the most popular sutra in the Mahayana Buddhist tradition as it is short and summarizes the key teachings of the Buddha.

A **sutra** is a foundational or central thread holding the teachings spoken by the Buddha together and the HEART SUTRA is considered the essential or key thread. It speaks about the Buddhist concept of emptiness.

The Heart Sutra is a story about Avalokiteshvara and Shariputra, who are discussing the perfection of wisdom. Avalokiteshvara is a bodhisattva – a ‘saintly’ being of Great Compassion, who has vowed not to attain Buddhahood until all beings are enlightened – and Shariputra is a monk or key ‘disciple’ of the Buddha.

The music that you have been hearing as we’ve gathered in this space is the Heart Sutra being chanting in Sanskrit. The Heart Sutra is often chanted as a

blessing and so this chant playing has served to bless this space where we gather.

The Heart Sutra will be chanted in different languages during this brief service. It ends with a mantra, which in Sanskrit is “**Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha.**” It means “**Gone, gone, gone all the way over, everyone gone to the other shore, enlightenment,**” and finishes with an exclamation of joy, **Svaha**, like “Hallelujah”.

The mantra is usually chanted in Sanskrit even when the sutra is translated into other languages, so we will also preserve the mantra in Sanskrit as a refrain chanted by all after the chanting by the leaders in different languages during our service.

[Pick up orange from table and say] Thich Nhat Hahn describes a mantra as something that you utter when your body, your mind and your breath are at one in deep concentration. When you dwell in that deep concentration, you look into things and see them as clearly as you see an orange that you hold in the palm of your hand.

[End playing of Sanskrit YouTube chant and get ready to play Mandarin YouTube.]

Possible rehearsal of Mantra with Valerie leading:  
*Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha*

**Chant of Heart Sutra in Mandarin)** [Crystal] [5 minutes]

[YouTube link <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nmyKFXvYRqE> to be played for Crystal to chant along with.]

**All Chant (8x):** *Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha*

(Gone, gone, gone all the way over, everyone gone to the other shore, enlightenment, rejoice!)

**Chant of Heart Sutra (in English)** [Eleanor, playing wooden fish, and Andrea to chant, Toronto Zen Center English translation.] [4 minutes]

ALL CHANT (8x): *Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha*

**Sharing the Merit and Closing** [Valerie]

Thank you all for coming together to be in community with one another. We wish that all beings may be happy and well, that all beings may be peaceful and safe, and that all beings may be free from suffering.

**Closing Response by all:** *Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu*

(Well said, we agree, we share this wish.)

[Gassho rei – bow with hands together at chest – END OF SERVICE]

Becca: I invite you now to leave this space quietly as we move together to the Muslim Prayer room in the basement for chanting in the Muslim Tradition. Please remove your shoes before entering the prayer space.

*As we leave, Morgan and Rhiannon will move the table chairs and cushions to the side so that the doors can be opened again.*

*Matt and Chyvonne will assist Beena, Amira, and Sajida in welcoming folks to the prayer room. FYI, people may sit where they like, ie: men and women may sit together. Women do not need to cover their heads. Depending on how many people attend, we will either sit in a circle or sit facing the northeast corner.*

# Muslim Chanting

Welcome and introduction:

- Quran Recitation and Dhikr (Divine remembrance) [pronounced zhikr] in Muslim tradition
- We will explain that in the worldview of the Quran, each individual's life is a journey of "remembrance" (ie dhikr) and then mention how the Islamic tradition includes many formulas of dhikr, which are acts of Remembrance that serve to connect us back to ourselves as well as back to the Divine.
- The most elevated of them being the canonical prayers (salat) and the reading of the Quran, but then there are also common formulas of chanting as well as devotional poetry, often recited to engender that same sense of connection and remembrance in a less formalised manner.

We will then present the verse:

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُون (١٥٢)

So remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me. (152)

*In a minute or less, we will walk the audience through the dhikr-structure.*

We will explain that we will start with the Fatiha (the Key/the Opener), the First Chapter of the Quran, which is a comprehensive prayer parallel to the "Lord's Prayer" for Christians and the "Shema" for Jews.

We will also mention that in our meditative chanting practice, we often make mention of the names of the Prophets, way-showers and ancestors in faith, as embodiments of Divine light and guides who have shown us our path.

Starting off the dhikr: [Lead by Naba Choudhry]

## **Chapter 1 of the Quran, Surah al-Fatiha**

*- read together out loud by those participating. This will be done in Arabic.*

### **1. BISMIL LAAHIR RAHMAANIR RAHEEM.**

*In the name of GOD, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

### **2. AL HAMDU LILLAHI RABBIL `AALAMEEN.**

*Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe*

### **3. AR RAHMAAN AR RAHEEM.**

*Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

### **4. MAALIKI YAWMID DEEN.**

*Master of the Day of Judgment*

### **5. EYYAAKA NA`BUDU, WA EYYAAKA NASTA`EEN.**

*You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help*

### **6. EH'DENAS SIRAATAL MUSTAQEEM.**

*Guide us in the right path*

### **7. SIRAATAL LAZINA AN`AMTA `ALAYHIM; GHAYRIL MAGHDOOBI `ALAYHIM WALADDAALEEN.**

*the path of those whom You blessed; not of those who have deserved wrath,  
nor of the strayers*

**All chant: La ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah**

**(There is no God but One God)**

*for about 3 mins, around 33 repetitions.*

## **Naming the Prophets/**

*Towards the end of the repetitions, the leader will start to intersperse it with mention of a small handful of the Messengers' names, from Adam to Muhammad)*

**La ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Adamu Safi Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Adam is the Purified Soul of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Nuhu Naji Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Noah is the Secret-Keeper of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Ibrahim Khalil Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Abraham is the Dear Friend of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Isma'il Dhabih Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Ishmael is the Sacrifice of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Musa Kalim Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Moses is spoken to directly by God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Dawud Khalifat Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[David is the Steward of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Isa Rouh Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Jesus is the Spirit of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Muhammadun Rasoul Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Muhammad is the Messenger of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

*Muhammadun Habib Allah, alay-hi salat Allah (Naba)*

*[Muhammad is the Beloved of God]*

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

**la ilaha ill Allah, la ilaha ill Allah... (everyone)**

**All Chant: Allah, Allah, Allahu Allah...**

*(for 2-3 mins) with everyone.*

## Silent supplications (prayers)

*Thanks to everyone. Chant will play while everyone transitions to the next prayer: Light of Dawn by Talib Al Habib*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYbCBQCfjT0&list=RDCYbCBQCfjT0&start\\_radio=1&t=223](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYbCBQCfjT0&list=RDCYbCBQCfjT0&start_radio=1&t=223)

\* Allah Hu  
Allah Hu  
Allah Hu  
Allah...

REPEAT \* [3x]

I wake with the light of the dawn whispering  
With joy in my heart and with praise on my lips  
In stillness and twilight I stand before You  
Bowing, prostrating I call Allahu...

REPEAT \* [2x]

My eyes see Your beauty in the dawn's golden hues  
My ears hear the thunder as it glorifies You  
The rhythm of my heart beats the sound of Your name  
My breaths rise and fall with the tide of Your praise

REPEAT \* [2x]

My soul knew and loved You before I was born  
And without Your mercy is lost and forlorn  
Wherever I may wander down the pathways of life  
My cry to You  
Oh, my Lord is "Guide Me To Light"

REPEAT \* [2x]

Through all fear and helplessness to You do I turn

For Your breath of healing and peace do I yearn  
For all that I have my Lord all that I am  
Is from You is for You and to You will return

REPEAT \* [2x]

\*\* Ya Allah (Ya Allah, Ya Allah)  
Ya Rahman (Ya Rayyan Rahim)  
Ya Hayyu  
Ya Qayyum

REPEAT \*\*

REPEAT \* [4x]

Becca: I invite you now to leave this space quietly as we move together to the Chapel for a short service with chant in the Christian Tradition.

# Christian Service

*(2-3 people will go to the staff kitchen to make tea, perhaps Rhiannon and Chyvonne and Haley??)*

**Explanation of Christian chant:** Chant has been and continues to be integral to many Christian celebrations. Today's brief service includes three different chants: a medieval chant by Hildegard of Bingen, a chant in an Anglican style and two Taize chants. Their style of simple prayers is also modelled after the Taizé community in France. The Taizé community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity founded by Brother Roger Schutz in 1940. Over the years, it has become known for its contemplative worship of prayer and song which attracts hundreds of people every year, especially young people. At Taize they believe that singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. They use short songs, repeated again and again, in the hopes that we can express a basic reality of faith with our whole being, listen to God, and offer our personal prayers.

Simple Latin phrases are often used in Taize singing. Latin was claimed as a language for the monastery so that no one "living" language could claim dominance over the others. This is also a way of freeing our minds from concentrating too much on the text and allowing ourselves to pray through the music without distraction.

**Opening Chant:** "O Virus Sapientia" by Hildegard of Bingen (1098 -1179)

Translation from Latin:

O strength of Wisdom, which circles and encompasses everything in one life-giving path.

You have three wings: one soaring high into heaven, one sweeping the earth, and the other fluttering everywhere.

Praise to you, as is fitting, O Wisdom!

## Opening Prayer:

Holy Jesus,

Diverse peoples came to hear your Word:

for the comfortless, a Word of blessing;

for the comfortable, a Word of challenge;

for all peoples, a Word of Grace.

Speak your Word here as we gather,

that we may be people of your blessing and challenge.

Amen.

**Psalm 1** adapted, Ian Sowton

Robert Knox Kennedy



1 Blessed are those who refuse wicked advice,  
who do not tread the sinners' road, or cosy up to scoffers,

2 but take deep pleasure in the law of God,  
meditating on it day and night.

3 They are like trees planted close to water;  
they yield fruit in season, their leaves never wither.  
They prosper in everything they do-- 4 not so the wicked,  
who are like chaff whirled away by the wind.

5 The wicked shall not pass the scrutiny of judgement,  
nor sinners find a place in the congregation of the just;  
6 for God watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the path of wrongdoers leads to a dead end.

*Silence*

## **Gospel Reading - Luke 6:17-26**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke...

Coming down the mountain with them,  
Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples.  
A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea,  
to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—  
people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases,  
and even to be freed from unclean spirits.  
Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus,  
because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.  
You who hunger now are blessed, for you’ll be filled.  
You who weep now are blessed, for you’ll laugh.  
You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you  
and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One.  
On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad:  
your reward will be great in heaven,  
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full.  
Woe to you who are full, for you’ll go hungry.  
Woe to you who laugh now, for you’ll weep in your grief.  
Woe to you when all speak well of you,  
for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.

Here what the spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

*Silence*

**Prayers with Sung Response – “O Lord, hear my prayer”**  
*(from the Taize book #20)*

O God of All Nations, Lover of All Peoples:  
We pray that you would show yourself to us in those around us,  
stranger and friend alike;  
make us especially attentive to the poor, the oppressed, and the unfortunate.

**All respond: O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Lord, we pray for those who suffer in their workplace and for those who are  
without work, that their dignity may be respected.

O Source of comfort, we pray for prisoners and those forgotten by society  
that you would keep us in solidarity with their suffering,

**All respond: O Lord, hear my prayer...**

For teachers, scholars, and researchers, that their work may benefit all  
humanity, Lord, we pray.

For those who have responsibilities in public life, that they may act with  
integrity and for the good of all, Lord, we pray.

**All respond: O Lord, hear my prayer...**

We ask your blessing on people of all faiths as we seek to grow in love,  
deepen in faith, and flourish in community.

**All respond: O Lord, hear my prayer...**



*All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus,  
who taught us to pray saying...*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **Closing Prayer/Blessing**

**Concluding Chant – “Da Pacem Cordium” (from the Taize book # 44)**

*All are welcome to stay for cookies, tea and conversation.*

*The cushions, table, and other articles need to be moved from the Main foyer  
back to the prayer room. Chairs need to be returned to the classrooms. We  
need volunteers to do this!*