

YOM HASHOAH



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council

Welcome to our Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service

Service Leaders:

Joy Barnitz, member of Niles Discovery Church

Ezra Brettler, guest speaker

Sister Annette Burkart, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

The Reverend Jo Green, Interim Minister at Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Mike Regal, cantorial soloist

The Reverend Jeffrey Spencer, Senior Pastor of Niles Discovery Church

Rabbi Avi Schulman, Temple Beth Torah



Tri-City Interfaith Council

The Tri-City Interfaith Council is
A COOPERATION CIRCLE OF



Opening Meditation and Prayer

We being – with silence.
The silence of death:
the silence after destruction;
there are times when songs falter,
when darkness fills life,
when martyrdom becomes a constellation of faith
against the unrelieved black of space about us.
There are no words to reach beyond the edge of night,
no messenger to tell the full tale.
There is only silence.
The silence of Job.
The silence of the Six Million.
The silence of memory.
Let us remember them as we link our silences

Silent Meditation

O Lord, my God,

אֱלֹהֵי, אֱלֹהֵי

Ei-li, Ei-li,

I pray that these things never end:

שְׁלֹא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם

she-lo yi-ga-meir le-ol-am

The sand and the sea,

הַחֹל וְהַיָּם,

ha-chol ve-ha-yam,

The rush of the waters,

רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,

rish-rush shel ha-ma-yim,

The crash of the heavens,

בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם,

be-rak ha-sha-ma-yim,

The prayer of the heart.

תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם.

te-fi-lat ha-a-dam.

The sand and the sea,

הַחֹל וְהַיָּם,

ha-chol ve-ha-yam,

The rush of the waters,

רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,

rish-rush shel ha-ma-yim,

The crash of the heavens,

בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם,

be-rak ha-sha-ma-yim,

The prayer of the heart.

תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם.

te-fi-lat ha-a-dam.

Lighting of Memorial Candles

We pause now to remember a time when night overcame the light of day. When darkness dimmed the sun and it seemed to be no more.

Six million Jews, among them one-and-a-half million children, a third of the People of the Covenant, were sent to their death in the gas chambers of Europe.

Auschwitz – Dachau – Buchenwald – Treblinka – Bergen-Belson – Theresienstadt
These very names evoke horror and terror.

And yet we recall these names, and the barbarous acts associated with them, so that the travail of our brothers and sisters may inspire generations yet unborn to learn well the lessons of an evil time. Their memory must remain forever etched in the conscience of humanity.

As we recall their unanswered cries, we pledge ourselves never again to be silent in the face of tyranny or injustice.

We need to transform grief into compassion. We must give evidence of our remembering them through acts of kindness and courage. Thus will our actions serve as monuments of the spirit to those who perished.

O God, remember your martyred children, as we pledge to remember them.

Eternal One, remember also the millions of those innocents who likewise died in that inhuman time. We light a candle in memory of all who perished.

During the playing of “I Believe,” you are encouraged to light a candle – a physical candle (wax or electric) in your home or a virtual candle on line. To light a virtual candle, go to: <https://www.illuminatethepast.org>

The lyrics to “I Believe” are said to have been found written on the wall of a cellar in Cologne where a number of Jews hid themselves during World War II.

Readings

If THE PROPHETS broke in
through the doors of night
and sought an ear like a homeland-

Ear of mankind,
overgrown with nettles,
would you hear?
If the voice of the prophets
blew

on flutes made of murdered children's bones
and exhaled airs burnt with
martyrs' cries -
if they build a bridge of old men's dying
groans -

Ear of mankind
occupied with small sounds,
would you hear?

Nellie Sachs

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.

Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.

From *Night*, by Elie Wiesel

YOU who live secure
in your warm houses,
who return at evening to find
hot food and friendly faces:

Consider whether this is a man,
who labors in the mud
who knows no peace
who fights for a crust of bread
who dies at a yes or a no.
Consider whether this is a woman,

without hair or name
with no more strength to remember
eyes empty and womb cold
as a frog in winter

Consider that this has been:

I commend these words to you.

Engrave them on your hearts

when you are in your house, when you walk on your way,
when you go to bed, when you rise.

Repeat them to your children,

or may your house crumble,
disease render you powerless,

your offspring avert their faces from you.

Primo Levi

IT WAS the cold winter of 1944, and although we had nothing like calendars, my father who was my fellow prisoner there, took me and some of our friends to a corner in our barrack. He announced that it was the eve of Chanukah, produced a curious-shaped clay bowl, and began to light a wick immersed in his precious, but now melted, margarine ration. Before he could recite the first blessing, I protested at the waste of food. He looked at me-then at the lamp-and finally said: "You and I have seen that it is possible to live up to three weeks without food. We once lived almost three days without water; but you cannot live properly for three minutes without hope."

Hugo Gryn

"The Garden"

A little garden,

Fragrant and full of roses.

The path is narrow

And a little boy walks along it.

A little boy, a sweet boy,

Like that growing blossom.

When the blossom comes to bloom.

The little boy will be no more.
Franta Bass

Speaker Presentation

A Response

ANI MAAMIN

Ani maamin	אָני מאַמין
b'emunah sh'leimah b'viat hamashiach.	בְּאֵמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה בְּבֵיאת הַמָּשִׁיחַ.
V'af al pi sheyitnamei-ah,	וְאִף עַל פִּי שְׂיִתְמֶהֱמָה,
im kol zeh ani maamin.	עִם כָּל־זֶה אָני מאַמין.
Im kol zeh achakeh lo b'chol yom sheyavo.	עִם כָּל־זֶה אַחְכֶּה לוֹ בְּכָל־יוֹם שְׂיָבֵא.

I believe with perfect faith in the Messiah's coming.
And even if the Messiah is delayed, I will wait day by day.

Offering

It is the tradition of the Tri-City Interfaith Council to receive an offering during this service. However, because we are not meeting with each other physically, this is not possible tonight. We do encourage you to make a contribution, online or by sending a check in the mail, to:

*The JFCS Holocaust Center
2245 Post Street
PO Box 159004
San Francisco, CA 94115
Online contributions can be made at
<https://donate.jfcs.org/give/165949/#!/donation/checkout>*

Prayers

For the sin of silence,
For the sin of indifference,
For the secret complicity of the neutral,
For the closing of borders,
For the washing of hands,
For the crime of indifference,
For the sin of silence,
For the closing of borders.
For all that was done,
For all that was not done,
Let there be no forgetfulness before the Throne of Glory;
Let there be remembrance within the human heart;
And let there at last be forgiveness
When Your Children, O God,
Are free and at peace.

“For the Six Million and for All Who Died in the Shoah”

Let there be perfect rest for the souls of the six million
who died as Jews in the flames of the Shoah.
Let there be perfect rest for the countless millions
who died because of race, religion or nationality,
political affiliation or sexual orientation.
Let there be perfect rest for the souls of the righteous
who risked all they had to hide and rescue Jews during the Holocaust.
Hold them close to You forever.
Seal their souls for everlasting life in the shelter of Your presence,
for You are their eternal home.
And let us say: Amen.

EL MALEI RACHAMIM,

shochein bamromim.

Hamtzei m'nucha n'chona tachat

kanfei ha'Shechinah,

b'maalot k'doshim u't'horim,

k'zohar harakia mazhirim,

et nishmot shisha milyon

acheinu v'ach'yoteinu

shenehergu al kiddush haShem.

Ba'al Ha'Rachamim yastireim

b'seter k'nafav l'olamim,

v'yitzror bitzror hachayim et nishmatam.

Adonai hu nachalatam,

v'yanuchu b'shalom al mishkavam.

V'nomar, amen.

אֵל מַלְאֵי רַחֲמִים,

שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים.

הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת

כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה,

בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוֹרִים,

כְּזוֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזַהְרִים,

אֶת נְשָׁמוֹת שֵׁשֶׁה־מִּלְיוֹן

אֲחֵינוּ וְאֲחֵיוֹתֵינוּ

שֶׁנְהָרְגוּ עַל קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם.

בְּעַל הַרַחֲמִים יִסְתִּירֵם

בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים,

וְיִצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נְשָׁמָתָם.

יְיָ הוּא נִחְלָתָם,

וְיִנּוּחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשַׁכְּבָם.

וְנֹאמֶר, אָמֵן.

We remember all who perished by reciting the Kaddish, the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead. This prayer is not a funeral hymn but an affirmation of God's everlasting Presence and dominion, praising God's existence and creative love. We also pray for the survivors, whose faith in life enabled them to rebuild in other countries their shattered lives, their destroyed worlds. Joining together they brought about new life, they raised families in new lands, in defiance of absolute terror and despair, an invincible hope. Exalted by that spirit of lifegiving and faith.

Kaddish is printed on the next page.

YITGADAL v'yitkadesh shmei raba.

b'alma div'ra chirutei,

v'yamlich malchutei,

b'cha-yeichon uv'yomeichon

uv'cha-yei d'chol beit Yisra-el,

ba-agala uvizman kariv. V'im'ru Amen.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach

l'alma ul'almei almaya.

Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpa-ar

v'yitromam v'yitnaseh,

v'yit-hadar v'yitaleh v'yit'halal

sh'mei d'Kudsha B'rich Hu,

l'eila min kol birchata v'shirata,

tushb'chata v'ne'che'mata,

da-amiran b'alma, v'imru: Amen.

Ye-hei shlama raba min sh'maya,

v'cha-yim aleinu v'al kol Yisra-el.

V'imru: Amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav,

Hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu,

v'al kol Yisra-el, v'imru, Amen.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וַיִּתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.

בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,

וַיַּמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ,

בְּחַיִּיכוּן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן

וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,

בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ

לְעָלַם וּלְעֵלְמֵי עֵלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח, וַיִּתְפָּאֵר

וַיִּתְרַומֵם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא,

וַיִּתְהַדָּר וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלָּל

שְׁמֵהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא,

לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,

תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא,

דְאָמִירָן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא,

וּחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו,

הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,

וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

MAY THE SOURCE of peace send peace to all who mourn and comfort all who are bereaved. Amen

Dear God, We are supposed to be created in your image,

But oh, how we have distorted it!

When we recall the beastly acts of people,

We are ashamed to be human

When we read of the nobility of their victims,

We are proud to be Humans.

Teach us, O God, to honor our Martyrs.

By being vigilant in defense of people everywhere,

And by fighting cruelty, persecution, and hate.

Where there is hatred, may we bring love.
Where there is pain, may we bring healing.
Where there is darkness, may we bring light
Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

“God, Give Us Strength”

As we gather tonight,
We pray for courage, and for strength.
When we remember the evils in the past,
The innocents tortured, maimed, and murdered,
We are almost afraid to make ourselves remember.
But we are even more afraid to forget.

We ask for wisdom, that we might mourn,
And not be consumed by hatred.
That we might remember,
and yet not lose hope.
We must face evil –
And, so doing, reaffirm our faith in future good.
We cannot erase yesterday’s pains,
But we can vow that they will not have been suffered in vain.

O God, Your presence is the light piercing the darkness on our way, lighting our steps,
making us see beauty and worth in all human beings. And so, we pray:

For those who were given death,
Let us choose life –
for us and generations yet to come.
For those who found courage to stand against
evil – often at the cost of their lives –
Let us vow to carry on their struggle.
We must teach ourselves, and our children:
To learn from hate that we must love,
To learn from evil to live for good.

Closing Blessing