

TOLERANCE PRAYER SERVICE

Introduction

This morning we gather to pray for tolerance, where understanding of differences between ourselves and others begins. We take a moment to bring ourselves body and soul into this gathering.

We begin... In the Name of the Father....

Opening Prayer

Dear God,

You have done such a marvelous job of creating us and the world around us. You have placed this creation, including all the people we meet, in our care. We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to be tolerant of others. We admit that we can never fully know your plan for the people around us. Grant us the strength to admit that our role is to invite others to participate in your saving plan and then to accept the choices they make in their own lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lived to show us your way.

Amen.

First Reading

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Mark (Mk 10:47-52)

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly,

"Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."

And they called the blind man, saying to him,

"Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."

Immediately the blind man regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

Second Reading

Reader: A reflection based on the Declaration on Religious Liberty from the Second Vatican Council:

We hereby declare

That each of us has a right to religious freedom,

To be immune from force by individuals, groups, or any other human power,

And to never be forced to act against our own convictions nor restrained from following our own consciences.

We have the right to a private life but also to associate with others who share our beliefs.

And this freedom of which we speak is based on the dignity of being human as we know it through God's own revelation.

Governments should provide societies which respect this everywhere in the world. From the word of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for this teaching.

Prayer for our Community

Leader: O God, you have made us humans in your image
And given us freedom and responsibility.

All: Freedom to love and responsibility to serve.

Leader: Grant us now a sense of tolerance, the strength to trust that God is at work in everyone's life.

All: Let us recognize your life in us and in all others.

Leader: We pray, too, that our actions reflect the kindness of our words.

All: May all see hope in us.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Leader: God, creator of us all, has given us the gift of language that we may communicate respectfully with one another as we talk of every aspect of your created world. May he direct our minds and our lips so that in all our dealings with others, our words may be fair; so that we may cause no hurt, letting our actions reflect the kindness of our words.

May we give thanks today for the way Jesus has led us to an awareness of the Spirit in our everyday living, calling us to be neighbour in ways that cross religious, cultural and social barriers, and challenging us to give the Spirit free reign in our lives so that the human community may be characterized by compassion and a concern for justice.

May God who loves us deeply.....

And may Jesus Christ in whose name we gather.....

Now bless us, direct us, and be with us in love, now and forever,

All: We receive your blessing for the good of all, as we unite in praying in your words - Our Father..... In the name of the Father