

# **Prayers at 10 Years After 9/11: A Gathering in Commemoration, on 8Sep11**

## **Prayer by Father Peter Wilson, Catholic University Chaplaincy**

As we gather for this memorial event, we bring together 3 things in our prayers: a remembrance of those who died, a cry of despair and bewilderment at the capacity of human beings to do evil and an affirmation of belief and hope in the goodness which always shines through even the darkest of deeds. As the holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl wrote: "After all, man is that being who has invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz – but he is also the being who has entered those gas-chambers upright, and with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Y'Israel on his lips".

We begin firstly, and most importantly, by remembering those who have died, and each of us, according to our religious tradition, in silence offering our prayer or remembrance.

(Silence)

Lord God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We entrust humanity in its great goodness and also its folly to the mercy and guidance of God, and we ask that out of the evil of this tragedy, the tales of good deeds and the commitment to do good will always flourish and triumph.

(Silence)

Lord God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We use Psalm 130 to sum up our prayers

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
His people indeed he will redeem  
from all their iniquity.

**Prayer by Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK**



In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

I begin with the name of **God Almighty Bismillah Hir Rahma nir Rahim**. I greet you with the greeting of Islam **Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah**. May Peace and blessing of God be with you all. **In Muslim tradition every prayer must include the Opening Chapter of the Holy Qur'an.**

Praise and Glory be to **God Almighty**, Lord of the Universe, The Most Kind, the Most Merciful. Ruler of the Day of Judgment. O lord, You alone we worship and from You alone we ask for help. Guide us along the Straight path. The path of those You have favoured, and not of those upon whom you are angry nor of those who gone astray. **AMEN.**

**Let us pray!**

Lord You said and Your word is true! Love is stronger than hate. “Goodness and evil cannot be compared. If you repel evil by good the one who hates you can become your close friend. This degree of goodness can be acquired only through patience and self-restraint”.

**O God Almighty** You are peace and from You Peace comes. Bestow on all of us Your Peace and make our final destiny in your eternal abode of Peace. Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for our past wrongs and from now on a new start. **AMEN.** May the blessing of **God Almighty** be upon you and all those whom you serve, today and always. **AMEN.**

## Prayer by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, West London Synagogue

*Avinu she-ba-shamayim*, our parent in heaven,  
*v'Ruach kol basar*, the Spirit of all that lives,  
We turn toward you as we recall today with sorrow and honour  
those who lost their lives ten years ago, and those who gave their lives  
- as passengers, firemen, and rescuers – so that others might live.  
Grant their souls continuing rest in the shelter of eternity  
And grant to us peace and fortitude in the years ahead,  
that we may restore a sense of trust and security to all  
that we may be guided not by fear or terror,  
but by strength and understanding, holding fast to our ideals  
and upholding our highest values.  
Celebrating diversity and honouring the variety of God's creation.  
*U'shmor tzeitenu u-vo'ainu l'hayim u-l'shalom, mei-ata v'ad olam.*  
Guard our comings and our goings in peace, now and always, Amen

Adapted from 'A prayer for September 11<sup>th</sup>' By Rabbi Gilah Langner,  
courtesy of Rabbis for Human Rights North America

*Sung:*

*Oseh Shalom Bimromav, hoo ya'aseh shalom aleynu, ve al kol yisrael, ve  
al kol ha'olam, ve imroo amen*

May the One who makes peace in the highest bring this peace upon us,  
upon all Israel, and upon all the world. And let us say Amen.

## Prayer by Sheikh Seddiki Sidi Fawzi, London Central Mosque

أعوذ بالله من الشيطان وجنوده K وأبدأ بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

I seek refuge with God from the evil and his legions, and I start in the name of the Most Gracious the Most Merciful.

"يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السَّلَامِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ، إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ" (البقرة: 208)

"O ye who believe! Enter into Peace altogether; and follow not the footsteps of the Evil One; for he is to you an avowed enemy." (2: 208)

"فَدَجَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ، يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ، وَيُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ، وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ" (المائدة: 15-16).

"There has come unto you from God a light and a plain scripture. Wherewith God guides all who seek His good pleasure to ways of peace, and leads them out of darkness, by His Will, unto the light, and guides them to a Path that is straight." (5: 15-16)

"وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَى دَارِ السَّلَامِ، وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ" (يونس: 25).

"But Allah do call to the Home of Peace: He do guide whom He pleases to a Way that is straight." (10: 25)

"وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُمْ مَوَدَّةً لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصَارَى، ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَسِيصِينَ وَرُهَبَانًا وَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ، وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ، تَرَى أَعْيُنَهُمْ تَفِيضُ مِنَ الدَّمْعِ مِمَّا عَرَفُوا مِنَ الْحَقِّ، يَقُولُونَ: رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ، وَمَا لَنَا لَا نُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْحَقِّ، وَنَطْمَعُ أَنْ يُدْخِلَنَا رَبُّنَا مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الصَّالِحِينَ." (المائدة: 82-84).

"You will find the nearest among people in love to the believers are those who say: We are Christians, because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant, and when they listen to the revelation received by the Messenger, you will see their eyes overflowing with tears, for they recognise the truth: They pray (saying): Our Lord! We believe (in what you revealed), write us down among the witnesses (of the truth), What cause can we have not to believe in Allah and the truth which has come to us, seeing that we long for our Lord to admit us to the company of the righteous". (5: 82-84)

"لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ، وَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ" (الأنعام: 127).

"For them will be a Home of Peace in the presence of their Lord: He will be their Friend, because they practised righteousness." (6: 127)

Verily God speak the truth

## **Prayer by Reverend Meliton R Oakes, Archdiocese of Thyateira**

O Lord God, Whom we worship and glorify, Who loves the just and is merciful to those who go astray, being long-suffering, of great tolerance and generosity, and all-compassionate, we remember before You all those who have in any way been affected by the events of ten years ago.

We thank you for all those who showed courage and bravery in the face of such an overwhelming and senseless disaster, for those who gave their lives for their fellow men and women.

We ask You to be with those who are as yet unable to readjust their lives, with those who mourn, with those who bear in their bodies the marks of these events, with those who daily feel the absence of loved ones, with those who work to restore a sense of normality to the lives of those around them.

Give us strength and wisdom when we feel that we are passing through times of darkness and depression, as well as in those times when we feel the light and warmth of Your presence.

Help us to be healed with the soothing passage of time and with love and affection, whenever we feel overwhelmed by hurt and injury.

Help us to find courage when we feel that we are under attack.

Help us to learn to recognise that our neighbour's pain is our pain, that our neighbour's loss is our loss.

And, when we feel alone, unwanted, unaccepted, without hope, help us to forget our pride and accept the compassion of a stranger and the hand that is outstretched to us. For "even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evils, for you are with me ... (and) your mercy will follow me all the days of my life."

Lord God, help the peace-loving majority of people in every community to find their voice and to speak out against violence by those who are blinded by fear and ignorance and who preach hatred.

And we rejoice in the ability that You have given us – even after the deepest tragedy – to rebuild, to create new life, to find hope and light by connecting with our brothers and our sisters and with You, God, to Whom be all honour and glory now and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.