

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

Michael Morales

February 20, 2006

7:00 p.m.

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church
San Rafael, CA 94901*



OPENING PRAYER

(Please read together)

O God of many names
Lover of all nations,
We pray for peace
In our hearts,
In our homes,
In our nations,
In our world,
The peace of your will,
The peace of our need.

THE GREETING: The Reverend Christopher Martin

OPENING HYMN – AMAZING GRACE (All Sing)

Hymn #671

OPENING PRAYER: (Standing, if able, and in unison)

God is with us;
God's love unites us,
God's purpose steadies us,
God's Spirit comforts us.
None of us has life in ourselves,
and none of us becomes our own master when we die.
For if we have life, we are alive in God,
and if we die, we die in God.
So, then whether we live or die,
we belong to God.

METTA SUTTA *(Please see next page)*

MEDITATIONS

The Reverend Christopher Martin
The Reverend Taigen Dan Leighton
Rabbi Michael Lezak
Others

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Reader: Let us pray. We pray tonight for strength and blessings from our faith traditions; that we might take in the wisdom of our ancestors and sages, our saints and holy ones, and be fed by the songs and prayers and silences we share here.

People: We give thanks for all those gathered here and at St. Quentin in vigil tonight.

Reader: We give thanks for the blessings of family, friends, loved ones, and companions on the journey.

People: We now name those not with us tonight, those whom we wish to bring into this sacred space.

Reader: We bring into this sacred space and our prayers: Michael Morales, scheduled to die tonight, his spiritual advisor, and those close to him.

People We hold in prayer those who are prisoners on death row, and all who are in prison, in this country and in the world; their families and loved ones, including those whom we now name.

Reader We bring into this sacred space and our prayers the victim in this case:

Terri Winchell

People: We hold in prayer all victims of violent crimes in this country and in the world; their families and loved ones, including those whom we now name:

Reader We pray for the victims of the crimes of injustice and oppression and neglect; especially those who are refugees, homeless, unwanted, struggling with addictions, and those whom we now name.

People We pray for all who care for and struggle on behalf of justice and freedom; that they be continually affirmed, renewed and uplifted by the grace of God and the prayers and support of others.

Reader We pray for a spirit of repentance and redemption in the world, making us forgiving and forgiven people of God.

People We remember our own acts of violence and hatred – as individuals, as part of our cultures, and as nation. Forgive us, loving God.

Reader We pray that all those who do not see the injustice and futility of the death penalty might be moved by the words and actions of this night; and by God's mercy come to a change of heart, turning vengeance into clear thinking and hardness of heart into compassion.

People We pray above all that the sacredness and wonder of all creation and life be rightly honored, so that all may walk lightly and joyfully upon the earth. We know from you God, that death and suffering are not to triumph over life. Revenge and anger shall not triumph over forgiveness and love. Amen.

SONG: PSALM 150

Kol HaNeshama, Te'haleil Yah, Ha'leiluyah

PRAYERS

FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH VIOLENCE

O Holy One, we have been wounded in body and soul. Our memories and our thoughts are full of horror, and we are powerless to heal ourselves. The hatred we feel, and the pain we feel is beyond our ability to cope. Please dear God; come into our minds with your spirit. Please wash us clean. Take out of us this sword. Take out of us this wound. Take out of us this pain. Help us to forgive, for it is beyond our power to do so ourselves. Release the one who did this, and release our hearts. We stand before you O God, helpless in ourselves to heal broken hearts and we ask you, loving Spirit to bind the wounds that we alone cannot. (Pause)

Pray for all of us.

FOR THE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE

While we strive to heal the world, the darkness is putting up a massive assault on the planet. All healing must extend itself to heal the darkness, for God is light. The perpetrators of violence may or may not be consciously horrified by their own acts. For those who are, that horror does not always lead to the cessation of criminal behavior. The drive towards violent behavior overwhelms and drowns the yearning of human conscience. It is only through the power of genuine spiritual awakening that the deepest darkness is turned to light. For the perpetrators of wrong actions the need for prayer is great indeed. (Pause)

A SONG

“Be Not Afraid” *(Please see next page)*

BLESSINGS

DISMISSAL

All those who are walking to the gates of San Quentin please gather at the front steps of the church after the Prayer Service. St. Paul’s will remain open for the prayer vigil until the walkers get back from the gate. Hot coffee, food and emotional support will be available until all are safely returned.

