



Current Issues in Prayer

January 2018

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.



Getting started:

Find a quiet place. Close your eyes. Imagine you are near the sea. Feel the breeze. Smell the sea. Listen to the birds. Listen to the voices of people far away. Thank God for who you are and what you stand for and for all that you have.



Short story:

Every religion has a popular prayer that is recited by all its followers. Read each one carefully and make it your own.

Buddhism: The Refuge Prayer

I go to the Buddha for refuge. I go to the Dhamma for refuge. I go to the Sangha for refuge.

Christianity: The Lord's Prayer (*Matthew, chapter 6*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Islam: The Fatiha *from the opening words of the Qur'an*

In the name of Allah, Most gracious, Most merciful, Master of the Day of Judgement. Thee do we worship, and Thine aide we seek. Show us the straight way.

Judaism: The Shema (*Deuteronomy, chapter 6*)

Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your children.



Time to reflect:

I try to find out the similarities in these typical prayers from different religions. Every religion looks for peace at heart. Let us search for that which is common before letting our differences divide us. What keeps us from praying like our brothers and sisters when we are in the Lord's presence?



Let us pray:

Dear God, may everybody be free to worship God and practise faith in all parts of the world.



Inspiration:

We may have different religions, different languages, different skin colour, but we all belong to one human race.

Kofi Annan - ex-Secretary General of the United Nations



Hands on:

I show interest and try to find out more about different religions so that I overcome any prejudices that I might have. This will help me respect the good and beautiful in everybody.