

ALIGNMENT

INTERFAITH CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Alignment's Virtual Prayer Wall for Peace

For the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, Alignment hosted a digital prayer wall with a culminating event to lift the prayers for peace left on the wall in celebration of the week of World Interfaith Harmony. The project was shared directly with over 500 faith leaders representing the traditions of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Taoism, Sikhism, Baha'i, several Indigenous/Native tribes, Zoroastrianism, and Pagan/Wiccan. WIHW committee members from the board of Alignment, Asheq Fazlullah, Rev. Barbara Chaapel, Molly Hicks, Hazzan Harold Messinger, Rev. Dr. Margaret Somerville sat vigil with the wall through the week and led a service at the end of the week to lift each prayer.

On this wall, participants from these different faith traditions offered prayers and messages in the pursuit of peace and interfaith harmony in recognition of WIHW. With a completely online presence, there was global participation, and this was a no-cost way for the event to be wide-reaching and accessible to anyone with an internet connection. Participants accessed the wall through Alignment's website, newsletter, mailing list, social media posts (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube), and magazine articles posted about the event. Messages were left in the form of images, songs, prayers, poems, quotes, or just a few words of hope. The intention was to further the aims and objectives of the WIHW to "spread the message of harmony and tolerance among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths and beliefs." Our peace wall was based on the "Love of God and Love of the Neighbor, and Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor". And by very nature of the platform, we were able to invite everyone, exclude no one, and allow the opportunity for participants to give light to their own tradition, alongside others, all in the pursuit of harmony and peace. We are grateful that after six years, we have build this expansive community of faith leaders for the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

At the culminating service, each offering left on the wall was read and lifted in prayer, with people from different faith traditions, leaders and lay, in attendance. It was a deeply moving experience of being together after a week of sitting vigil with the wall as entries were offered on each of the seven days preceding. We concluded with a prayer based on the Prophet Muhammad's words about peace and justice.

We pray, without ceasing, that our words become actions that give life the shape of justice.

Help all persons to be able to not merely see the similarities between all people, but to feel less fear in the differences. If this can be our focus, perhaps our goal may be not for homogeny, but for a true and joyful diversity.

Every human life is precious to God and the human community. Each human path of faith is a sacred journey within life.

May we build a common community from our different traditions, all seeking peace for our ailing world.

In peace and unity,

Asheq Fazlullah, Rev. Barbara Chaapel, Molly Hicks, Hazzan Harold Messinger, Rev. Dr. Margaret Somerville

World Interfaith Harmony Week committee

from the Board of Alignment: Interfaith Contemplative Practices

Link to prayer wall:

<https://padlet.com/revmsomerville/world-interfaith-harmony-week-dkdrigu0rfaqd70y>

Slideshow of Prayer Wall for Peace

<https://padlet.com/revmsomerville/world-interfaith-harmony-week-dkdrigu0rfaqd70y/slideshow>

Social Media and Website Graphic:



Visit www.interfaithalignment.org for more information or to access the link to the [Prayer Wall](https://padlet.com/revmsomerville/world-interfaith-harmony-week-dkdrigu0rfaqd70y).

Website: announcing event: <https://interfaithalignment.org/sessions>

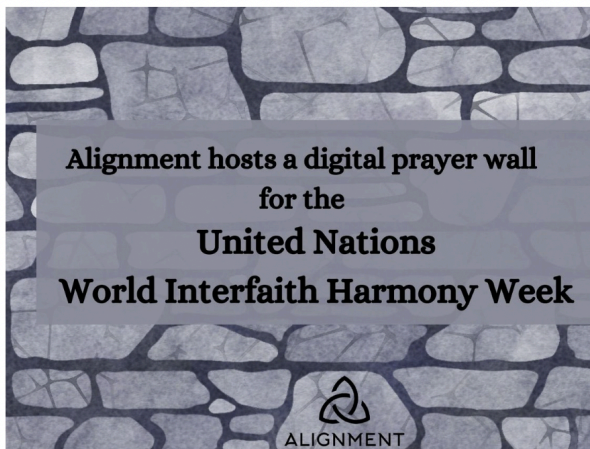
Screenshot:

United Nations
World Interfaith Harmony Week
February 1-7, 2024
Alignment's Virtual Prayer Wall for Peace

Click on the virtual wall to offer a message in the pursuit of peace and interfaith harmony. Share an image, a thought, a prayer, a song, a poem, or just a few words. If you align with any particular faith tradition or community, share as you feel comfortable.

PRAYER WALL FOR PEACE

Upcoming Sessions



United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week

Sunday, Feb 11, 7:00-7:30 pm ET

For World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7, Alignment will be hosting a digital prayer wall where visitors can offer prayers and messages in the pursuit of peace and interfaith harmony. The week will culminate with this session of Alignment, an online gathering to celebrate the gifts presented on the wall and to lift the prayers and messages left as part of the United Nations celebration of interfaith harmony.



Jewish Chants with Marni Loffman

Sunday, Feb 18, 7:00-7:45 pm ET

Marni leads a session full of singing, breathing, and reflecting. As we each hold collective and individual pain throughout our lives, we turn to our traditions and our creativity for healing. We spend time together amidst in musical medicine to hold us in our brokenness and grief. Marni's music explores disparate identity, doubt, grief, and healing through combining rabbinic and liturgical poetry and prose with original lyrics.

Videos about Alignment's event with World Interfaith Harmony Week

Posted on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook

<https://youtu.be/SURILjbqUPQ>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/WEh1OvOiFak>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Uj1VQmNmUIQ>

Opening service for the week:

<https://youtu.be/7iWaHGqkJQ>

Magazine Articles: published in Patheos: hosting the conversation on faith and spirituality
[A Simple Way to Celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week](#)

[What Is Your Prayer for Peace: the United Nations Observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week](#)

Poems for WIHW

Not One Way

Some prayers have words.
Some are only colors.
Some carry hope and others deep despair.
Each one holds a vision that somewhere in it all
There is connection
That what I am feeling is held
And lifted
And carried gently into being
One stone that builds a wall
When added to your stone
And together make a parapet of peace against
All the voices railing that there is only one way.

Prayer Wall for Peace

Stone upon stone. Held by mortar or
by the whisper of shapes conformed.
Brick laid on brick. Cemented by the labor of repetition.
Prayer after prayer, its strength built by each addition
an image of a lakeside respite
a song of unifying love
a poem that has touched a heart
Not a rampart of division. But a foundation for hope.
where all traditions are honored
all prayers are lifted
all pray-ers cherished.