



*This Service has been organised by Cois Tine as part of the*

*“Connecting Communities”  
Cork City Integration Strategy 2008–2011*

*We are grateful for the participation and contributions of:*

***The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.***

*Members of the Buddhist, Hindu, Baha’i,  
Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths.  
The Lord Mayor and Cork City Council.  
Cork City Partnership.  
The Office of the Minister for Integration.*

*(Three representative of the six faith groups: Muslim, Jewish, Bhuddist, Christian, Baha’l and Hindu took part. Six Reps each did a reading from each of the faiths traditions and six lit a candle while each reading was being read. These later went into the audience with their candles to light the candles each person had. Finally Blessings were read by the other reps (Note we had 7 blessings rather than six for local practical reasons)*

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Opening Reflection: President Mary McAleese**

**Call to Prayer**

**Leader:** *Creator God, we gather together in community. We gather as people of conscience and as people of faith. We gather from different corners of Cork and Ireland bringing together the diversity of your people in one place: different cultures, ages, genders, faiths and life experiences. But we gather here in one spirit and with one purpose.*

*Mindful of the gift of your life, love and goodness to us, we begin our time together in a spirit of prayer.*

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** We join our hearts, our spirits and our minds.

### **Lighting of the Unity Candle by President McAleese**

**Leader:** *After each prayer, as a sign of commitment to bring about change towards integration, a candle is lit. We light six candles for the six faiths present in our community here in Cork. Each candle symbolises a prayer. As the glow from the candle illuminates the service, our prayer is continuous. As the smoke from the candle rises above our reach, our prayers are lifted up to the One who hears and answers.*

*God calls us to show our love for him,  
in how we live together in our world and  
in the community where we live.*

**Muslim Prayer** In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful.  
Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us,  
and made us into tribes and nations,  
that we may know each other,  
not that we may despise each other.  
If the enemy incline towards peace,  
do thou also incline towards peace,  
and trust God, for the Lord is the one that  
heareth and knoweth all things. The servants of God  
most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility,  
and when we address them, we say "PEACE."  
God advocates justice, charity,  
and the doing of good to others and giving to relatives.  
And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression.  
He enlightens you, that you may take heed.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** We gather in thanksgiving to build a path of hope  
and to rejoice in our sharing of the peace and trust  
willed by our Creator.

**Leader:** *We are entrusted with the responsibility and privilege of building community, as collaborators not competitors, as stewards and life givers, kindling hope and joy as peacemakers living in harmony.*

**Jewish Prayer**

Come let us go up the mountain of the Lord,

that we may walk the paths of the Most High.  
And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,  
and our spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
And none shall be afraid, for the mouth of the  
Lord of Hosts has spoken.

## LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** **May we bring about our Creator's will that all peoples live in peace and harmony.**

**Leader:** *God, we continue to put our faith in your love  
for creation and in your divine justice.  
We ask for your peace, which passes all understanding  
and we pray that your justice,  
which surpasses human imperfection, be done on earth.*

**Christian Prayer** Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled  
as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** **May we be instruments for the building of understanding and consolation in our community.**

**Leader:** *God of life, you created all people equal in dignity and humanity;  
you have called us to live in unity and harmony;  
to build faith and realise community.*

**Baha'i Prayer** O Thou kind Lord!  
Thou has created all humanity from the same stock.  
Thou has decreed that all shall belong to the same household.  
In Thy Holy Presence they are all thy servants  
and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle:  
all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty:  
all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou are kind to all, Thou hast provided for all,  
dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all.  
Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties,  
and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.  
O Thou kind Lord! Unite all.  
Let the religions agree and make the nations one,  
so that they may see each other as one family  
and the whole earth as one home.  
May they all live together in perfect harmony.  
O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.  
O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.  
Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

#### LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** **We acknowledge you are the source of all truth and justice**

**Leader:** *We are called by God to act to overcome the injustice and oppression that rob humanity of dignity and value.*

**Buddhist Prayer** May I be a guard for those who are without protection,  
a guide for those who journey on the road.  
For those who wish to go across the water,  
may I be a boat, a raft, a bridge.  
May I be an isle for those who yearn for landfall,  
a lamp for those who long for light;  
for those who need a resting place, a bed:  
for those who need a servant, may I be their slave.

May I be the wishing jewel, the vase of plenty,  
a word of power and the supreme healing:  
may I be the tree of miracles,  
and for every being a source of abundance.

Thus for every thing that lives,  
as far as are the limits of the sky,  
may I provide their livelihood and nourishment  
until they pass beyond the bonds of suffering.

#### LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** **We stand in solidarity with those who are poor, sick and without rights. May we, through our actions bring them relief, healing and justice.**

**Leader:** *We are called to live in harmony as God wills, respecting each person's dignity and immeasurable value.*

**Hindu Prayer** May there be peace in  
higher regions.  
May there be peace in the firmament.  
May there be peace on Earth.  
May the waters flow peacefully.

May herbs and  
plants bring peace to all.  
May all living powers bring us to peace.  
The supreme Lord is peace.  
May we all be in peace, peace and only peace.  
And may that peace come to each of us.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

**People:** **We are called to live in harmony as God wills,  
respecting each person's dignity  
and immeasurable value.  
We pray that your light will shine on us  
and cast out the darkness of this world.**

### **All present light candles**

#### **World in Union**

There's a dream, I feel so rare, so real  
All the world in union the world as one

Gathering together one mind, one heart  
Every creed, every colour once joined, never apart

Searching for the best in me I will find what I can be  
If I win, lose or draw it's a victory for all

We face high mountains must cross rough seas  
We must take our place in history and live with dignity

Just to be the best I can sets the goal for every man  
If I win, lose or draw it's a victory for all

It's the world in union the world as one  
As we climb to reach our destiny a new age has begun

#### **Leader:**

*Let us affirm what we have discovered  
of God's will in the company of each other.  
As God is merciful and gracious,  
so may we be merciful and gracious.*

**People:** **O God, You have called us to peace, for You are Peace itself. May we have the vision  
to see that each of us can help to  
realise these aims:**

**Leader:** *Where there is ignorance and superstition*

**People:** **Let there be enlightenment and knowledge.**

**Leader:** *Where there is prejudice and hatred*

**People:** **Let there be acceptance and love.**

**Leader:** *Where there is fear and suspicion*

**People:** **Let there be confidence and trust.**

**Leader:** *Where there is tyranny and oppression*

**People:** **Let there be freedom and justice.**

**Leader:** *Where there is poverty and disease*

**People:** **Let there be prosperity and health.**

**Leader:** *Where there is strife and discord*

**People:** **Let there be harmony and peace.**

**Leader:** *Lord, we are called to renew our hope and love and to work for the unity of God's People. As people of different faiths we together call for your Blessing:*

**Blessing 1:** May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.  
**Amen.**

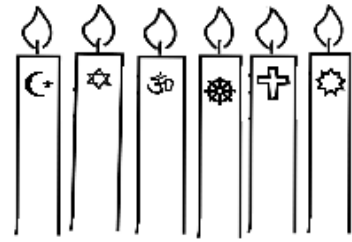
**Blessing 2:** May God bless you with a righteous anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people and the earth, so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing 3:** May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing 4:** May God bless you with the vision to make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others say cannot be done.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing 5:** May God bless you with wisdom to be living examples for our children, of respect, tolerance and love for justice.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing 6:** May God bless you and keep you and let His light shine on you and on those you love. May God keep you safe from all harm.  
**Amen.**



**Blessing 7:** We give thanks for the diversity that enriches our City.  
May we appreciate each other and learn from each other. May we go together in  
peace and live together in harmony.  
**Amen.**

***Songs used:***

*Opening song – Lean on Me*

*Lighting of Candles – accompanied by the singing of the World in Union*

*Final Song – We used an African Song*