

**1.** Invocation - Suggested orientation

"Thank you for accepting our invitation to lead the ... [troop, dinner, etc.] in an invocation, which has become a valued part of our tradition. We wish to remind ourselves that those chosen to lead the ... in an invocation are leading a diverse community in prayer, rather than praying personally in public.

We request and expect that our invocations be worded so as to be inclusive, not to exclude any faith represented in the....

An invocation may be in any language native to a specific prayer tradition, as long as it is translated into English, the common tradition of our diverse ....

Wordings and endings may, and indeed are anticipated to reference God, but we request and expect that you will avoid names for God that are not shared by the diverse traditions represented in the ... (such as Allah, Hashem, and Jesus, as examples).

Similarly, please end your invocation with inclusive language, such as "in Your name we pray, Amen"; or "in God's name we pray, Amen"; or simply "Amen."

Thank you again for accepting our invitation to lead our ... in an interfaith invocation. We are grateful for your inspiration."

## 2. Interfaith Invocation

Let us pray,  
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
Who has created us, sustained us and brought us together this day.

You have allowed us to worship You, each in our own way;  
Help us to hear each other's worship with respect.

You have enabled us to serve You, each in our own way;  
Help us to see each other's service as complementary.

You have nurtured each of us in our relationship with You;  
Help us to grow in our relationship with You, and with each other.

And let us say,  
Amen.

## 3. Interfaith Prayer – morning (on arising-)

I thank you, everliving God,  
for re-awakening my soul.  
Great is your mercy and faithfulness.

## 4. Invocation (psalm)

Zeh ha'yom asah Adonai (\*Ps. 124)  
This is the day the Lord has made.

We are but stewards of this day. May we use this day wisely to contribute to repairing the world (tikkun olam).

Ki yoday'ah Adonai derech tzadikim (\*Ps. 8)  
For the Lord cherishes the way of the righteous.

We seek guidance, wisdom and courage.

Elohim imcha b'chol asher atah oseh (\*Gen. 21:22)  
God be with you in all that you do.

And let us say,  
Amen.

\* Original Hebrew

## 5. Interfaith invocation – (song)

God who rules the heavens,  
To whom all praise is due,  
Bless all who are assembled here,  
And the work we seek to do.

Guide us with Your spirit,  
To follow in Your ways,  
Help us to work in harmony,  
In the task we face today.

Bless the works of our hands,  
That through them we may reach  
Beyond ourselves to others  
To help, to guide, to teach.

Though our work is just beginning,  
And our task is never done,  
Bless all of us with courage  
To bring Tikkun Olam\*.

Linda Salvay (with permission 12-3-07) 1997      \*Repair of the World

## 6. Invocation – short

Blessed are You,  
Lord our G-d,  
Ruler of the universe,  
Who has created us, sustained us, and  
Brought us to be together this day.

Help us to understand Your intent for us as stewards of Your creation.  
Help us to use the gifts You have given us  
To help others,  
To reduce suffering, and  
To repair the world.

And let us say, Amen.

## 7. Invocation Prayer

Help us O Lord  
To gather in peace,  
And strengthen us.

Spread over us your wisdom,  
And guide us.

Shield us,  
That we may come to serve your world and its people.

Praised are You Lord,  
Who spreads a shelter of peace over us,  
Over all your people,  
And over your creation.

Blessed are You Lord, in peace.  
Amen

## 8. Invocation – The Week Ahead

May it be your will,  
Lord our God, God of all,  
to reawaken in us joy and blessing in the week ahead.  
Grant us a good week,  
a peaceful week of goodness and blessing,  
sustenance and vitality;  
a week of reverence and piety,  
a week free from shame and reproach,  
a week of abundance and honor,  
a reverent week guided by Your love;  
a week in which our worthy aspirations  
will be fulfilled.

Amen

## 9. Gaelic

“I know that I am one with beauty  
and that my comrades are one.

Let our souls be mountains,  
let our spirits be stars,  
let our hearts be worlds.”

(Ansel Adams)

## 10. Multi-faith prayer

La ilaha illa 'llah, there is no God but God.

In the name of God, Gracious and Merciful, praise be to God.  
Creator and Sustainer of the worlds, Benevolent and Compassionate,  
Ruler of the day of judgement, You do we worship, and Your aid do  
we seek. Guide us, O Lord, in the straight path, the way of those  
who have not gone astray, the path of those on whom You have  
poured your grace.

[The Shahadah, the first of Islam's five pillars (followed by "and Muhammed is his prophet").The other four are  
daily prayer, charity, Ramandan and pilgrimage]

[Qur'an 1:1-7, Prologue]

We have been told what is good and what the Lord requires of us:  
only to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

[Michah 6:8]

and let us say, Amen”

11. “In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful, Praise  
be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds, Most  
Gracious, Most Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgement. You do  
we worship, and Your aid we seek. Show us the straight way. The  
way of those on whom You have bestowed Your grace, those who  
earn not Your anger and who go not astray.” Qur'an 1:1-7

12. “God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation and ready and willing workers for the causes of goodness. Amen.”

Eagles Soaring High, BSA 2004

### 13. Traveler’s Prayer

May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors,  
to guide us in peace,  
to lead us to our desired destination in health and joy and peace,  
and to bring us home in peace.

Save us from every enemy and disaster on the way, and from all calamities that threaten the world.

Bless the work of our hands.

May we find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us.

Hear our supplication, for You listen to prayer and supplication.

Praised are You, Lord, who hears prayer.

### 14. Psalm 121, A Song for Ascents:

“I turn my eyes to the mountains;  
from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,  
maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot give way;  
your guardian will not slumber.

See, the guardian of Israel  
neither slumbers nor sleeps!

The Lord is your guardian,  
the Lord is your protection  
at your right hand.

By day the sun will not strike you,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will guard you from all harm;  
He will guard your life.

The Lord will guard your going and coming  
now and forever. Amen.”

## 15. A prayer for those who serve the community –

May God who blessed our ancestors bless us, together with all those who unite in prayer, those who pray, those who give, and all who devotedly involve themselves with the needs of our community and land. May the Holy One reward them, remove sickness from them, heal them, and forgive their sins. May God bless them by making all their worthy endeavors prosper, as well as those of the entire people.

And let us say,  
Amen.

## 16. A Prayer For Our Country

Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask Your blessings for our country - for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from Your teachings, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land, under Your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom - helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore."

And let us say, Amen.

## 17. Interfaith Service for Scouts

Call to worship, Psalm 100:1-3 -

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come into His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

Song – God Bless America.

*God bless America, land that I love.*

*Stand beside her, and guide her,*

*Through the night with a light from above.*

*From the mountains, to the prairie,*

*To the ocean, white with foam,*

*God bless America, my home sweet home.*

*God bless America, my home sweet home.*

Scripture (Micah 6:6 & 6:8).

“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and humble myself before God on high?

Shall I come before God with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

God has told you, mankind, what is good,  
and what the Lord requires of you –  
to do justice, to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.”

Message (see interfaith message below, as an example).

# Interfaith Message

The early first century Rabbi Hillel was approached by a skeptic and challenged, “teach me the whole law while I stand on one foot.” Hillel responded, “do not unto others as you would not have them do unto you; that is the law, the rest is commentary; now go and study.”

Another early first century Rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth, was approached by his disciples on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Gallilee. His response, found in the book of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 12 was, “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law....”

We ask, “what is expected of me, in this, God’s creation?”

A famous twentieth century professor of religion, Huston Smith, taught that all religions meet three great needs of mankind: Believing (answering mankind’s unanswerable questions, like why am I here, what is my purpose?); Behaving (the development of moral law, forming the basis of social law); and Belonging (the sense of community, understanding our place in the world).

In this passage from Scripture, Micah addresses our basic question, “what is expected of me”, and responds with our now three familiar answers: do justice (behaving within the socially accepted law), love kindness (treating each other as extended family, to which we all belong), and walk humbly with your God (coming to believe and recognize that we are limited in comparison to God, in our ability to understand His creation).

In its original Hebrew, Micah 6:6 & 8:

“*Bamah akadaym adonai, eekahf laylohay mahrohm ha-akadamenu v’ohloht ba-ahgaleem b’nay shanah?*

*Heegeed l’hah ahdahm, mah tov oohmah adonai doraysh mee-m’hah: kee eem ahsobt meespaht v’ahavah hesed v’hatznayah leh-het eem eloheh-hah.”*

And in our contemporary English (repeat here from above the English of Micah 6:6 & 6:8):

And let us say, Amen.

Responsive reading: A Scouting litany (the Scout Law) –

Leader – A true worthy person recognizes his obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

*People – A Scout is trustworthy.*

Leader – We owe much to many – home, school, community, nation; and to God.

*People – a Scout is loyal.*

Leader – The good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a good turn.

*People – A Scout is helpful.*

Leader – Be generous with the hand of fellowship, the tap on the shoulder, the smile of encouragement.

*People – A Scout is friendly.*

Leader – Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

*People – A Scout is courteous.*

Leader – Kindness is the way people show respect for others.  
*People – A Scout is kind.*

Leader – Life is filled with things we must do, whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.  
*People - A Scout is obedient.*

Leader – Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, our day is always happier.  
*People – A Scout is cheerful.*

Leader – The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.  
*People – A Scout is thrifty.*

Leader – To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks and temptations. In choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.  
*People – A Scout is brave.*

Leader – Cleanliness is next to Godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.  
*People – A Scout is clean.*

Leader – Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves, and our brothers and sisters, and see them as gifts of the goodness of God, we live on a high plane.  
*People – A Scout is reverent.*

Optional offering and prayer.

Song – Sanctuary.

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
sanctuary for You. (repeat)*

Closing benediction:

“May the time be not too distant, oh Lord, when all Your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before You. Then shall Your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of Your prophet shall be fulfilled: the Lord will reign forever and ever.

And let us say, Amen.”