

## Welcome/Introduction

### 1. Prayer for America

#### Music Selection # 1

2. Joy comes from God. Who could live and could breathe if the joy of Brahman filled not the universe?...for from joy, all beings have come, by joy they all live, and unto joy they all return.

*Hinduism: from the Taitiriya Upanishad*

3. Where there is the Infinite, there is joy. There is no joy in the finite. Only in the Infinite, there is joy; know the nature of the Infinite.

*Hinduism: from the Chandogya Upanishad*

4. Health is the supreme possession. Contentment is the supreme wealth. A trustworthy friend is the supreme relation. Nirvana is the supreme happiness.

*Buddhism: Dhammapada, v. 204*

5. I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

...Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

*Judaism: The Old Testament: Psalm 16:8-11*

6. If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

*Christianity (Jesus Christ): The New Testament, John 15:10-11*

7. If only the People of the Book had believed and been righteous, We should indeed have blotted out their iniquities and admitted them to gardens of bliss. If only they had stood fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that was sent to them from their Lord, they would have enjoyed happiness from every side...

*Islam (Mohammad): Qur'an: 5:68-69*

### 8. Prayer in Hindi

#### Music Selection #2

*Baha'i Faith:*

9. Verily I am Thy servant, O my God.... I have arrived at Thy gate, seeking Thy shelter. I have found no contentment save in Thy love, no exultation except in Thy remembrance, no eagerness but in obedience to Thee, no joy save in Thy nearness....

*Selections from the Writings of the Bab, pp. 174-175*

10. O lovers of His beauty! Turn the anguish of your separation from Him into the joy of an everlasting reunion, and let the sweetness of His presence dissolve the bitterness of your remoteness from His court....

Hear Me, ye mortal birds! In the Rose Garden of changeless splendor a Flower hath begun to bloom, compared to which every other flower is but a thorn, and before the brightness of Whose glory the very essence of beauty must pale and wither. Arise, therefore, and, with the whole enthusiasm of your hearts, with all the eagerness of your souls, the full fervor of your will, and the concentrated efforts of your entire being, strive to attain the paradise of His presence, and endeavor to inhale the fragrance of the incorruptible Flower, to breathe the sweet savors of holiness, and to obtain a portion of this perfume of celestial glory....

Strip yourselves of every earthly affection, and hasten to embrace your Beloved.... In the open radiance of His glory He standeth before you. His voice summoneth all the holy and sanctified beings to come and be united with Him. Happy is he that turneth thereunto; well is it with him that hath attained, and gazed on the light of so wondrous a countenance.

*Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 319-322*

11. Happy is the man who hath recognized Thee, and discovered the sweetness of Thy fragrance, and set himself towards Thy kingdom, and tasted of the things that have been perfected therein by Thy grace and favor.

*Bahá'u'lláh, Prayers and Meditations, p. 54*

12. O Son of Spirit! Ask not of Me that which We desire not for thee, then be content with what We have ordained for thy sake, for this is that which profiteth thee, if therewith thou dost content thyself.

*Bahá'u'lláh, Arabic Hidden Words, no. 18*

13. When a man turns his face to God, he finds sunshine everywhere.

*Abdul-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 1*

14. Happiness consisteth of two kinds: physical and spiritual. The physical happiness is limited; its utmost duration is one day, one month, one year. It hath no result. Spiritual happiness is eternal and unfathomable. This kind of happiness appeareth in one's soul with the love of God and suffereth one to attain to the virtues and perfections of the world of humanity. Therefore, endeavour as much as thou art able in order to illumine the lamp of thy heart by the light of love.

*Abdu'l-Baha, Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 142*

### Music Selection # 3

15. Prayer in Arabic

16. In this world we are influenced by two sentiments, joy and pain. Joy gives us wings! In times of joy our strength is more vital, our intellect keener, and our understanding less clouded. We seem better able to cope with the world and to find our sphere of usefulness. But when sadness visits us we become weak, our strength leaves us, our comprehension is dim and our intelligence veiled....There is no human being untouched by these two influences; but all the sorrow and the grief that exist come from the world of matter---the spiritual world bestows only the joy!

If we suffer, it is the outcome of material things....For instance, a merchant may lose his trade and depression ensues. A workman is dismissed and starvation stares him in the face. A farmer has a bad harvest, anxiety fills his mind. A man builds a house which is burnt to the ground and he is straightway homeless, ruined, and in despair. All these examples are to show you that the trials which beset our every step, all our sorrow, pain, shame and grief, are born in the world of matter---whereas the spiritual Kingdom never causes sadness. A man living with his thoughts in this Kingdom knows perpetual joy. The ills all flesh is heir to do not pass him by, but they only touch the surface of his life, the depths are calm and serene....

You see all round you proofs of the inadequacy of material things-how joy, comfort, peace and consolation are not to be found in the transitory things of the world. Is it not then foolishness to refuse to seek these treasures where they may be found? The doors of the spiritual Kingdom are open to all, and without is absolute darkness....

*Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, pp. 109-111*

17. The above talk by `Abdu'l-Bahá in Persian language.

18. In a time to come, morals will degenerate to an extreme degree. It is essential that children be reared in the Bahá'í way, that they may find happiness both in this

19. world and the next. If not, they shall be beset by sorrows and troubles, for human happiness is founded upon spiritual behaviour.

*Selections from the Writings of `Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 127*

20. The happiness and greatness, the rank and station, the pleasure and peace, of an individual have never consisted in his personal wealth, but rather in his excellent character, his high resolve, the breadth of his learning, and his ability to solve difficult problems.

Happy is the soul that shall forget his own good, and like the chosen ones of God, vie with his fellows in service to the good of all....

Is any larger bounty conceivable than this, that an individual, looking within himself, should find that by the confirming grace of God he has become the cause of peace and well-being, of happiness and advantage to his fellow men? No, by the one true God, there is no greater bliss, no more complete delight.

*Abdul-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, pp. 23-24, 116, 2-3*

21. I desire to make manifest among the friends in America a new light that they may become a new people, that a new foundation may be established and complete harmony be realized; for the foundation of Bahá'u'lláh is love....The people must be so attracted to you that they will exclaim, "What happiness exists among you!" and will see in your faces the lights of the Kingdom; then in wonderment they will turn to you and seek the cause of your happiness.... I will pray for you that you may become the cause of upraising the lights of God. May everyone point to you and ask, "Why are these people so happy?" I want you to be happy... to laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy by you.

*Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 218*

22. If we are not happy and joyous at this season, for what other season shall we wait and for what other time shall we look?... Be calm, be strong, be grateful, and become a lamp full of light, that the darkness of sorrows be annihilated, and the sun of everlasting joy arise from the dawning place of heart and soul, shining brightly.

*Tablets of Abdul-Baha, pp. 641, 405*

23. Prayer in Spanish

**Announcements/Prayer Requests**

**Music Selection # 4**

**Fellowship**