

Interfaith Prayer Service or Candlelight Prayer Vigil

Unison Prayer: In the sacred bonds of our common humanity, we give thanks for the life that we share and for our calling to care for each other. We acknowledge that we have failed to care for every member of our human family, and have not ensured that all may receive the health care they need for the life that you intend. We pray for forgiveness for hearts that have been slow to feel another's pain, for hands that have been still when caring touch was needed, and for voices that have remained silent while millions suffer for lack of health care. Amen.

Jewish Perspectives on Health Care

Teachings from Jewish scripture – Leviticus 19: "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." Judaism advances two core values underlying an abiding commitment to provide health care to all of God's children. The first is that an individual human life is of infinite value; the second is that we are endowed with wisdom and strength to be God's partners in repairing the world. Just as the Talmud teaches that a physician is obligated to heal and that a patient is obligated to obtain health care, so too are we taught that the whole of society is responsible for ensuring that every individual has access to health care.

Prayer from the Jewish Tradition (to be offered by a Jewish participant or leader)

Unison Participant Response: Strengthen us to use our hearts, hands, and voices to raise our vision for a health care future that includes everyone and works well for all of us.

Reflection on Christian Perspectives on Health Care

Teachings from Christian Scripture – Mark 2:3: "Then some people came, bringing to [Jesus] a paralytic, carried by four of them... He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.'" Christian scripture is filled with Jesus' acts of healing, but this particular scripture also lifts up our responsibility in helping others access the care they need. We are reminded that all of the stories about Jesus' healing ministry were found in larger narratives about our common humanity, compassion, human dignity, shared responsibility, and God's intention for our health and wholeness.

Prayer from the Christian Tradition (to be offered by a Christian participant or leader)

Unison Participant Response: Strengthen us to use our hearts, hands, and voices to raise our vision for a health care future that includes everyone and works well for all of us.

Reflection on Islamic Perspectives on Health Care

Ayahs from the Holy Qur'an. "A person whose passions respond only to his or her personal needs, and who is only concerned with his or her own personal and familial life, has long abandoned the true purpose of life..." (15:3). True Muslims are compassionate human beings, whose passions are aligned with a divine purpose of life. It is a pleasure for Muslims to help address health care needs, for piety is achieved in giving what you love most to those who need you.

Prayer from the Islamic Tradition (to be offered by a Muslim participant or leader)

Unison Participant Response: Strengthen us to use our hearts, hands, and voices to raise our vision for a health care future that includes everyone and works well for all of us.

Silent Meditation

Unison Participant Response: For the blessing of life, we give you thanks. For the comfort you provide for all who experience illness and loss, we give you thanks. And for the call to care and the will to do it, we give you thanks. Amen.