

Prayers, Graces and Invocations for Ecumenical & Multifaith Groups

With Canada's diverse communities that we serve today, here are some common prayers that could be used at interdenominational/intercultural gatherings. This was requested (originally in 1991) because there are occasions when large gatherings are being addressed with prayers and invocations that either offend or do not reflect the religious backgrounds of all present.

We have developed several pages of prayers that we feel should meet the needs of multifaith or interdenominational gatherings for:

- your consideration and use;
- your comments;
- your suggestions; and
- your suggestions of additional suitable prayers.

We are prepared to add to these prayers, but only if it is desired. One important suggestion for you in dealing with these matters is to:

1. determine the make-up of your audience;
2. select a broad section of the audience to deliver their prayers; and
3. have the entire gathering share these prayers.

This matter can be a very difficult area to work in. What we have tried to do is keep it simple and what we present to you is only the beginning of what can be a very fruitful journey in understanding of the faiths.

We look forward to your comments and offerings.

**SCOUTS CANADA
PRAYERS, GRACES AND INVOCATIONS
FOR ECUMENICAL AND MULTIFAITH GROUPS**

Grace at Meals:

1. For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD

2. For food, friends, the fellowship of Scouting
And all the blessings of this day,
We give you thanks.
O God you give us a great hunger for food,
Give us the same hunger to serve you.

Invocation:

O God, we thank you for this opportunity in Scouting to share in this (course) (conference) (meeting) for a time of refreshment and fellowship; help us to work and think and pray together, that we may be more perfectly fitted to serve you, and (our younger members) (those with whom we work) in the task in which we have been called.

Help us God to look wise, fill us with high ideals, inspire us with love and goodwill to all, that we may rightly lead in the paths of chivalry and honour, and all this we ask in Your Name. AMEN

For Leaders:

Anyone who wants to be a leader must learn to be everybody's servant.
But I find that hard to accept.
I'd like to be famous and get VIP treatment in restaurants, hotels and airports.
I'd like to be a champion athlete, win trophies, sign autographs, and hold world records.
At such times I don't want to be anybody's servant.
Teach me why I should become everyone's servant.
Teach me why the truly great leaders, those who accomplished the greatest good for the largest number of people where men and women who know that to lead is to serve.
Motivate me to begin leading those I meet daily by discovering their needs and striving to help them live up to their potential. AMEN

The Meaning of Service:

O God, help us to carry out in our lives the spirit of Scouting, that we may share it with others by living it ourselves.
Help us also, God, that we may understand the true meaning of service for others by following the example and teachings of my faith. AMEN

For Canadian Scouting:

We thank you for those who have gone before us, whose work has enriched our lives today.

We remember especially the life of Baden-Powell: his faith and his love for you, His courage and dedication, his love for children and young people, His gift of Scouting to the world.

Help us today to build wisely on the foundation built for us by others.

Keep us true to the principles of Scouting, hold before us our Aim, enable us to live by our Promise, and deepen our love for boys and young people.

In these ways may we continue to serve you in the service of Scouting in Canada.

AMEN

For the Young People:

O God, again and again you have called on young people to force change or fire human hopes.

Never let us be so set in our ways that we refuse to hear young voices, or so firm in our grip on power that we reject them.

Let the young be candid, but not cruel.

Keep them dreaming dreams that you approve, and living in your Spirit. AMEN

For the Nation:

1. O God, we invoke thy blessing upon our country and upon all who exercise just and Rightful authority. Instruct them out of your Law, that they may administer all affairs of state in justice and equity, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, right and freedom, may forever abide in our midst. Unite in loyal and loving accord all the inhabitants of our Country, so that men and women of all races and creeds may find in their common citizenship the bond of true brotherhood and sisterhood. Banish all hatred and bigotry, racism and self-righteousness and safeguard the ideals and institutions of our Country.

May this land, under your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, Uniting men and women in peace and freedom and helping all races, creeds and cultures to fulfil your vision.

2. We praise you for all that you have done for Canada. Make us worthy of your goodness, reverent in our use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, generous in the protection of weakness; and may our deepest trust ever be In you O God.
3. Increase in every nation the sense of human brotherhood and sisterhood, true respect for man and for woman, loyalty in service and love, happiness in work, and justice in reward; that our homes may be kept safe and pure, our cities and countryside renewed in beauty and order. All this we ask in your name.

O Great Spirit:

We know we are your children. We want to serve you faithfully.
Help us to listen to your voice. Help us to be willing and quick to do your work.
Help us to be friendly and loving. And help us to thank you every day for all the
gifts you give us. AMEN

For all Races, Creeds & Cultures:

Father of all, You have created the universe – the heavens, the earth and all living
creatures. Yet, you have made no two flowers, no two blades of grass, no two children
exactly alike. It is your plan that there be variety in nature and in human beings. You
have placed on earth different races, different nations and different religions, each with
its own talents and abilities. Teach us to appreciate and understand these differences.
May we never be prejudiced against anyone because of his faith, colour or origin.
Inspire us to be just, helpful and friendly to all. AMEN

First printing – March 1991
Updated/sent to field – January 2006