

Praying for Neighbors of Other Faiths and Traditions

The practice of prayer for persons of other faiths in the context of Christian worship is appropriate on any Lord's Day, particularly at the time of an important day or season for another religious community. Such intercessions may lead to greater interfaith understanding and cooperation. The practice of daily prayer presents yet another opportunity to pray for God's blessing on neighbors of other religions or traditions. Indeed, Christ's calling to love our neighbors extends to interactions at home, at school, at work, and in every aspect of daily life.

The following suggestions for prayer provide a model for framing intercessions at significant times for neighbors of other faiths or Christian traditions. They should be edited, expanded, and adapted as needed—ideally in conversation with those neighbors for whom we pray, asking: "How might we pray for your community at this time?"

NOTE: Check dates carefully and adapt verb tenses for use before, during, or after a festival or season:

- before:* who are preparing to celebrate, who are preparing to observe
- during:* who are celebrating, who are observing
- after:* who have celebrated, who have observed

When a festival or season extends across two months, it is only listed under the first month.

Dates in boxes are from the Presbyterian Planning Calendar (2017–2018); additional suggested dates are in provided in red.

OCTOBER 2017 (Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) 4–11 Jewish: Sukkot 19 Hindu: Diwali

Jewish: Sukkot (October 4–11, 2017)

We pray for our Jewish neighbors
who are celebrating Sukkot,
and for safe shelter and abundant harvest for all.

Hindu: Diwali (October 19, 2017)

We pray for our Hindu neighbors
who are celebrating Diwali,
that this Festival of Lights may be a time of goodness, wisdom, and hope.

NOVEMBER 2017 (Sundays: 5, 12, 19, 26) 15 Orthodox: Nativity Fast begins

Orthodox: Nativity Fast (November 15–24, 2017)

We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors
who are observing the Nativity Fast,
that we may all be ready for the coming of the Lord.

DECEMBER 2017 (Sundays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31) 12–20 Jewish: Hanukkah 24 Orthodox: Nativity Fast ends

Jewish: Hanukkah (December 12–20, 2017)
We pray for our Jewish neighbors
who are celebrating Hanukkah,
that this Festival of Light may bring renewed dedication and joy.

JANUARY 2018 (Sundays: 7, 14, 21, 28) 6 Orthodox: Theophany [also Catholic/Protestant Epiphany]
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Orthodox: Epiphany (January 6, 2018)
With Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians
in this community and in every place,
we celebrate the Epiphany or Theophany of the Lord,
giving thanks for Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

FEBRUARY 2018 (Sundays: 4, 11, 18, 25) 19 Orthodox: Great Lent begins 28 Jewish: Purim begins

Orthodox: Great Lent (February 19 – March 30, 2018)
We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors
who are observing Great Lent,
that this may be season of deep discipline and joyful discipleship.

Jewish: Purim (February 28 – March 1, 2018)
We pray for our Jewish neighbors
who are celebrating Purim,
and for the deliverance of all who are persecuted.

MARCH 2018 (Sundays: 4, 11, 18, 25) 1 Jewish: Purim ends 30 Jewish: Passover begins

Jewish: Passover (March 30 – April 7, 2018)
We pray for our Jewish neighbors

who are celebrating Passover,
and for all who seek liberation from captivity.

APRIL 2018 (Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

1 Orthodox: Palm Sunday
6 Orthodox: Good Friday
7 Jewish: Passover ends
8 Orthodox: Pascha (Easter)

Orthodox: Palm Sunday (April 1, 2018) and Good Friday (April 6, 2018)

We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors,
who are observing Palm Sunday and Holy Week,
that they may experience the transforming mystery of our faith.

Orthodox: Pascha (Easter) (April 8, 2018)

We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors,
who are celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord,
that we may stand together in the joy of our risen Savior.

MAY 2018 (Sundays: 6, 13, 20, 27)

16 Islamic: Ramadan begins
17 Orthodox: Ascension
19–21 Jewish: Shavuot
27 Orthodox: Pentecost

Islamic: Ramadan (May 16 – June 15, 2018)

We pray for our Muslim neighbors
who are observing the month of Ramadan,
that this time of fasting and prayer may bring them blessing.

Orthodox: Ascension (May 17, 2018)

We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors
who are celebrating the Ascension of the Lord,
that our risen Savior will draw us all into his holy presence.

Jewish: Shavuot (May 19–21, 2018)

We pray for our Jewish neighbors
who are celebrating the Feast of Weeks,
that they may flourish in keeping the holy commandments.

Orthodox: Pentecost (June 27, 2018)

We pray for our Orthodox Christian neighbors
who are celebrating the Day of Pentecost,
and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to draw us together

in the one body of Christ our Lord.

JUNE 2018 (Sundays: 3, 10, 17, 24)

15 Islamic: Ramadan ends

15 Islamic: Eid Al-Fitr

Islamic: Ramadan (May 16 – June 15, 2018)

We pray for our Muslim neighbors
who are observing the month of Ramadan,
that this time of fasting and prayer may bring them blessing.

Islamic: Eid Al-Fitr (June 15, 2018)

We pray for our Muslim neighbors
who are celebrating Eid Al-Fitr,
that it may be a day of sweet blessing and joy.

JULY 2018 (Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

AUGUST 2018 (Sundays: 5, 12, 19, 26)

22 Islamic: Eid Al-Adha

Islamic: Eid Al-Adha (August 22, 2018)

We pray for our Muslim neighbors
who are observing Eid Al-Adha,
that this Festival of Sacrifice may be a day of righteousness and blessing.

SEPTEMBER 2018 (Sundays: 2, 9, 16, 23)

9–11 Jewish: Rosh Hashanah

18–19 Jewish: Yom Kippur

Jewish: Rosh Hashanah (September 9–11, 2018) and Yom Kippur (September 18–19, 2018)

We pray for our Jewish neighbors
who are observing Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur,
that this new year may bring reconciliation in our world.