



Unity and World Religions

Opening and Closing Prayers Offering Prayer

*You may use these for the opening and closing of your study group;
you may pray in your own words; or have someone in your group pray.*

**Week One, Chapter One
Unity and Christianity
September 18 – September 24**

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Christianity, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concepts. As we align our thoughts with the highest and best that the greatest Christian scholars have taught, we allow ourselves to enter the place of pure knowing with the words, “Be still and know....”
And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for our ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Christianity. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider how Unity is Christian, as well as how Unity’s five principles are evident in the great Christian writings. And we take with us the words of Thomas Merton, “Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone – we find it with [one] another.”
And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Two, Chapter Two
Unity and Judaism
September 24 – October 1

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Judaism, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concepts, its “appreciation and honor for God’s wisdom and love, and for the fact that God has poured that intelligence and compassion into humankind’s hearts and minds.” As we align our thoughts with the highest and best that the greatest Jewish scholars have taught, we listen to the still, small voice, and allow ourselves to enter the place of pure knowing with the words, “I AM That I AM.”

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for the ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Judaism. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider how the God of Israel never gives up on his people, as well as how Jews bring their whole being to God in order to enter into a sacred relationship with the Divine. And we take with us the willingness to practice one’s faith in every area of life found in the ancient text from the Book of Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Three, Chapter Three
Unity and Islam
October 2 – 8

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Islam, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concepts, its desire to establish the peace of God, and its belief in God as absolute good. As we align our thoughts with the highest and best that the greatest Islamic scholars have taught, we delight in the words of the Koran (2:115), “Whichever way you turn, there is the face of God.”

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for the ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Islam. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider this vast and diverse religion and its desire to know the will of God, as well as the development of presence and love evident in the great Sufi writings. And we take with us what the poet Hafiz reminds us, “Even after all this time the sun never says to the earth, ‘you owe me.’ Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky.”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Four, Chapter Four Unity and Hinduism October 9 – 15

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Hinduism, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concepts, including the idea of God in everything and everything in God, and the name of the Ultimate Presence as *That*. Here we say, “I am That. You are That.”

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for the ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Hinduism. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider the power of focused intention and creative thought, as well as the marriage of philosophical, practical and devotional concepts evident in the great Hindu writings. And we take with us what Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa said, “The winds of grace are always blowing, but you have to raise the sail.”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Five, Chapter Five
Unity and Buddhism
October 16 – 22

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Buddhism, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concepts of wisdom consciousness, the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. As the Buddha said, “avoid all evil, cultivate good, purify your mind.”

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for our ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Buddhism. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider the development of an enlightened mind and the great compassion for all sentient beings evident in the great Buddhist writings. And we take with us the words of the Dalai Lama, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Six, Chapter Six
Unity and Taoism
October 23 – October 29

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider Taoism, we are open and receptive to what this religion inspires in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of its concept of the Tao being the underlying reality within and beyond all things. We come to understand this as the essential harmony and order of the universe that flows through all things.

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for our ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of Taoism. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider how the divine qualities of compassion, moderation, and humility when utilized in everyday life can help us be brave, generous, and fulfill our potential, as evident in the great Taoist writings. And we take with us the words of the Tao Te Ching, “Without opening your door, you can open your heart to the world. Without looking out your window, you can see the essence of the Tao.”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

Week Seven Unity and the Smorgasbord of Other Religions October 30 – November 5

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in prayer on this journey of discovery, acknowledging the One Power and One Presence in our lives, God the good, Omnipotent. As we consider various other religious traditions, we are open and receptive to what they inspire in us, and how we are led to live and express Truth through a better understanding of different ways of approaching the Divine. We know that in whatever way we approach It, there is always a degree of surrender to the unknowable, a trust in divine order beyond our ability to determine or define it.

And so it is. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are ever grateful for our ability to understand our alignment with the all-knowing, all-loving power of God, present in the writings and teachings of the many varied religious traditions. Thank you for this time of gathering together, to consider that there are many forms that lead to the Formless. Universal is the desire for connection with God, with each other, and with the world. And in the words of our author, Paul John Roach, “The recognition of oneness that arises through epiphany, moksha, enlightenment, and mystical union is a cause for celebration. Laughter and joy energize the body and enliven and enlighten the mind, reminding us that, in a deep sense, all is well.”

And so it is as we allow it to be.

OFFERING PRAYER FOR EVERY WEEK

We have absolute faith in the abundance of God in our lives and in the world. As we have given in joy, we now receive in love, all of our good, heaped up, pressed down, shaken together and running over. For that’s the law and so it is. Amen.