

Cheerful Service to God

**A Resource for Interfaith Worship
at Order of the Arrow and Scouting Events**



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Declaration of Religious Principle of the BSA

(BSA Bylaws Article IX, Section 1)

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizenship without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law." The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of the members should be kept before them. The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

ACTIVITIES. The activities of the members of the Boy Scouts of America shall be carried on under conditions which show respect to the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion, as required by the twelfth point of the Scout Law, reading, "Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others."

FREEDOM. In no case where a unit is connected with a church or other distinctively religious organization shall members of other denomination or faith be required, because of their membership in the unit, to take part in or observe a religious ceremony distinctly unique to that organization or church.

LEADERS. Only persons willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scouting program.

Service to God in the OA

Scouts and scouters promise in the *Scout Oath* to do our duty to God. The *Scout Law* ends by reminding us that a Scout is Reverent. As an official program of the Boy Scouts of America, the Order of the Arrow seeks to promote these principles in everyday life.

Many have found that Servant Leadership, as practiced in the OA, is a great way to live out their individual faith. Lodge functions and other OA events can be a way of putting faith into action.

This booklet has been created to provide resources to lodge leadership to be able to provide an atmosphere that will encourage spiritual growth that is consistent with scouting principles through prayer and worship.

This is an “Interfaith” worship resource book. It is designed so that a person from any faith background might be able to participate in worship and connect to the God of their understanding. It is not intended to combine all faiths or indicate that all faiths are the same, but rather allow space for anyone from any faith background to participate in a way meaningful to them. The language of Interfaith Services is encouraged instead of simply “Chapel Services” or “Non-Denominational Services” (which may automatically imply Christian).

Contained in this book are a number of prayers for many different occasions, songs that are appropriate for use during Interfaith Services, three detailed Interfaith Worship Services, and an Outline for an Interfaith Service that is less detailed in order to provide flexibility for those wishing to be creative.

The resources contained in this book are a small sampling of the many resources available for use in leading Interfaith Worship Services at Scouting events. Our hope is that this book will help as lodges continue to seek ways of providing quality worship opportunities for OA members that will encourage each of us to become better scouts and scouters.

Peace be with you.

Prayers

Arrowmen's Grace

Let us be thankful for the food and drinks we are about to receive before us.
Let us be thankful for the shelter that protects us while we sleep at night.
Let us be thankful for the water that rejuvenates our mind, body & soul.
Let us be thankful for the earth we walk on and the air we breathe.
Let us be thankful for the fire that keeps us warm and gives us light.
Let us be thankful for natural surroundings that give the earth beauty and life.
Let us be thankful for the family and friends that are helpful when we need them the most.
Let us be thankful for the staff and leaders that lead us on our way. Amen.

ARROWMAN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, from your judgment seat on high,
Look down on a Arrowmen such as I.
Search me through and find me whole,
Then help me Lord to reach my goal.
Help me Lord to work for Thee,
Guard my homeland - Keep it free.
Help me to work with others and be kind,
Helpful with my hands and mind.
Keep me Lord, both well and strong
To help our growing Arrowmen along.
Control my thoughts; keep them right,
sound, clean weapons for life's fight.
Protect my morals, keep them high,
Grant this to an Arrowmen such as I.

AN ARROWMEN'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER

With reverence in our hearts,
We, Your many children of many beliefs,
United in common purpose,
Gather to offer this our humble prayer,
In Thanksgiving:
As Scouters we are thankful for:
The many gifts and talents given to our fellow Arrowmen, and to ourselves;
The freedom we have to join together and as a team accomplish more than any of us could alone;
The opportunity to be of service to young people, parents, other Scouters, other Arrowmen, and our community;
Our joy at seeing so many young people become excited as they grow and are able to meet challenges;

Being reminded by their ceremonies and legends that he who serves his fellows, is of his fellows greatest;

And most importantly we are thankful for the gift of knowing that our prayers are heard.

We each in own way take this moment to silently add our own thanksgivings . . .
(pause)

With thanks in our hearts we offer our prayers and ask that You, the Great Scoutmaster of All Scouts, be with each of us until we meet again. Amen.

The Arrowmen Beatitudes

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are led with patience and understanding... for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion...for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are taught the value and power of truth...for they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...for they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.

Blessed are the Arrowmen who are loved and know that they are loved...for they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

Servants Prayer

The true servants of the Gracious GOD are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

Those who ask forgiveness and believe and do good deeds.

A Scout's Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright

And teach me that integrity of character

Is my most priceless possession.

Grant that I may do my best today,

And strive to do even better tomorrow.

Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy,

And help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.

Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life,

Open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.

I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.

Help me to do my duty to my country and
To know that a good nation must be made from good men.

Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law,
And give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.
May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or
Look the Other way when someone is in need.
You have given me the gift of a body,
Make me wise enough to keep it health,
That I might serve better.
You are the source of all wisdom,
Help me to have an alert mind,
Teach me to think,
And help me to learn discipline.
In all that I do and in every challenge I face,
Help me to know the difference between right and wrong,
And lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal.

A SCOUT'S PRAYER

We have hiked along life's pathway,
Our packs upon our backs,
We have pitched our tents and rested
Here and there along the tracks.
We have used our compass wisely
To guide us on our way
And hope to reach the campsite
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.
We have tried to be trustworthy -
Kept our honor high and clean,
We have been as loyal as any
To our homeland and Country.
We have done our best at all times -
Kept our Promise - been prepared,
And hope our good deeds please Him
When at last our souls are bared.
We have lightened others' burdens,
With our smiles along the way,
We have kept our hand in God's hand,
Walked beside Him day by day.
And when our span of life runs out,
We'll make this gentle plea -
May we sit around His Campfire
At the Final Jamboree.

A Scouter's Prayer

"Build me a Scout, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory... Build me a Scout whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a Scout who himself is the foundation stone of knowledge...

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail...

Build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past...

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength...

Then I, a Scouter who knew him, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

A Scouter's Prayer

Dear Lord, from your judgment seat on high, Look down on a Scoutmaster such as I. Search me through and find me whole, Then help me, Lord, to reach my goal. Help me, Lord, to work for Thee, Guard my homeland—keep it free. Help me to work with others and be kind, Helpful with my hands and mind. Keep me, Lord, both well and strong, To help growing boys along. Control my thoughts, keep them right, Sound, clean weapons for life's fight. Protect my morals, keep them high, Grant this to a Scouter such as I.

Prayer of a Cheerful Servant

Lord, give me the strength to be unselfish
In service and devoted to the welfare of others,
Help me do my best to do my duty to you and our country
And let me follow your example to be helpful to others
Cheerful in service, kind to all, and to do in this world, those
Thanks which will bring me to you in the next. Amen.

A Solemn Prayer

O Lord, this solemn prayer comes from deep desire,
May my life be as pure as candle fire.
Let my every breath dispel the world's gloom,
Let my spirit glow so brightly that darkness meets its doom.
May my life enhance my country's glory
As the flower enhances the garden's splendid revelry.
May I be as faithfully drawn to learning
As the moth is drawn to the candle's burning.

May my life be devoted to serving the needy
And to loving a sorrowful, ever suffering humanity.
Lead me away from the path of temptation.
O Lord, let truth alone be my destination.

A Native American Prayer

O Great Spirit of the North,
O Great Spirit of the South,
O Great Spirit of the East,
O Great Spirit of the West.
O Great Spirit, you are one.

You have given us our house,
Where there is food,
Where there is drink,
Where there are clothes.

You have given us our house,
Where there is fellowship,
Where there is companionship,
Where there is friendship.

You have given us our house,
Where we can grow,
Where we can learn,
Where we can know you.

O Great Spirit:
You are One,
Our house is One,
We are One!

Prayer Composed by Chief Yellow Lark, a Blackfoot Indian

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your many children. I am weak and small. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.

An Indian Prayer

Morning star wake us, filled with joy
To new days of growing to man from boy.
Sun, with your power, give us light
That we can tell wrong and do what's right.
South wind, we ask, in your gentle way
Blow us the willingness to obey.
North wind, we ask, live up to thy name,
Send us the strength to always be game.
East wind, we ask, with your breath so snappy,
Fill us with knowledge of how to be happy.
West wind, we ask, blow all that is fair
To us, that we may always be square.
Moon, that fills the night with red light,
guard us well while we sleep in the night.
Akela, please guide us in every way,
We'll follow your trail in work or play.

A Navajo Prayer

Before me peaceful
Behind me peaceful
Under me peaceful
Over me peaceful
Around me peaceful

A Christian Prayer

Great Spirit, who has blessed the Earth that it should be fruitful and bring forth whatsoever is needful for the life of man, and hast commanded us to work with quietness and eat our own bread; Bless the labors of those who till the fields and grant such seasonable weather that we may gather in the fruits of the earth.

-Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer

A Jewish Prayer

God of the World, I stand before you and before my neighbors - pardoning, forgiving, struggling to be open to all who have hurt and angered me. Be this hurt of body or soul, of honor or property, whether they were forced to hurt me or did so willingly, whether by accident or intent, whether by word or deed

I forgive them because we are human...I am ready to take upon myself the commandment, Love your neighbor as yourself.

-Levi Yitchak of Beditschev

A Scouting Psalm

The Lord God is our Great Scoutmaster who provides all our needs.
He lets us camp in forests tall and meadows green.
He leads us on trails besides waters deep and still, brooks babbling, streams rushing,
and rivers raging.
He restores our bodies, minds and souls, even as we observe the eagle soaring to
greater heights above.
He encourages the Eagle Scout in his upward climb.
He teaches Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers to live the Scout
Oath and Law.
Even though the trails may lead through dark valleys with towering mountains, we are
courageous because he leads us onward.
He continually blesses us with food for mind and body.
Even when our enemies dislike or distrust us, he blesses us with the gifts of love and
forgiveness.
Surely, his goodness and mercy will sustain us all the days of our lives.
And, when we climb the final trail through the awesome pass that leads to the Great
Councilfire, we shall join those who traveled the trail before us and joyfully live with
him forever!

Sanskrit proverb

Look to this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life.
In its brief course lies all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The splendor of action,
The glory of power.
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision.
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday
A dream of happiness
And every tomorrow
A vision of hope.
Look well, therefore,
To this day.

A Buddhist Prayer

May all beings have happiness and the causes of happiness;
this is immeasurable loving kindness;
May all things be liberated from suffering and the causes of suffering;
this is immeasurable compassion;

May all beings be free of suffering and always stay happy;
this is immeasurable joy;
May all things be free of grasping and aversion toward others, and develop faith in
the equality of all beings;
this is immeasurable equanimity.
-The Four Immeasurable Vows, Tantric Buddhism

A Muslim Prayer

Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are a hundred ways to kneel and kiss
the ground.
-Rumi, a 7th century Sufi mystic

Silent Observance

May we observe a moment of silent prayer, each in his own faith.

World Hunger Grace

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 humble thanks, oh Lord.

AN OA GRACE

God, as we eat this meal,
Bind our souls together in brotherhood
Cheer our hearts with your goodness
And strengthen our hands for service.
Amen.

AN OA GRACE

Blessed are you Lord,
In my night alone, You watched over me.
In my day of scant food, you sustained me,
In my hours of silent labor, you inspired me,
Help me thank you with the life of cheerful service you have shown me,
Amen.

AN OA GRACE

We thank you God for all your blessings including this meal. Teach us to be servant
leaders and strengthen our bonds of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service in our
daily lives.

Short Benedictions

May we all remain fast and firm in faith that the glory of glories may rest upon us.
Thou art Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, and the Compassionate.
-From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And give you peace.
-Traditional

May the Lord watch between thee, and me
While we are absent from one another.
-The Mizpah

A Blessing

For what we are about to do, may the Lord make us truly responsible.
For what we are about to think, may the Lord make us truly wise.
For what we are about to say, may the Lord make us truly sensible.
For what we are trying to achieve, may the Lord accept and bless our efforts.

A Simple Blessing

May you walk in Peace,
Live with Love,
work with Joy,
and May Your God go with you.

An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your friends,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The Scoutmaster's Benediction

May the great Scoutmaster of all true Scouts be with us until we meet again.

THANK YOU LORD

Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great blessings,
Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great friendships.
Glory to God, may He hear our prayers,
Guide us on forever,
Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great blessings.

Songs for Use in Worship

God Bless America

God Bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the ocean, white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

God Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land;
firm may she ever stand
through storm and night:
when the wild tempests rave,
ruler of wind and wave,
do thou our country save
by thy great might.

For her our prayers shall rise
to God, above the skies;
on him we wait;
thou who art ever nigh,

guarding with watchful eye,
to thee aloud we cry,
God save the state!

And not to us alone,
but be thy mercies known
from shore to shore.
Lord, make the nations see
that men should brothers be
and form one family
the wide world o'er.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, Come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered; Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight
Lord of all to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise

This is my Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world.
I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world.
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Kum Ba Ya

Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Oh Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's crying Lord, Kum ba ya.
Some one's laughing Lord, Kum ba ya.
Some one's shouting Lord, Kum ba ya.
Some one's praying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum ba ya, My Lord Kum ba ya.

Awesome God

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God.

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Allelujah!

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, Allelujah!

O God, our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

On Eagle's Wings

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

This is the Day

This is the day
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice
We will rejoice
And be glad in it
And be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made.

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird,
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness, Where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently, each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?"
"Have I kept my honor bright,
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Every thing to be prepared?"

Interfaith Service I

Call to Worship

Eternal God, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise!
(Psalm 51:15)

Opening Song – America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Katharine Lee Bates, 1904. Public Domain

Responsive Reading

"On My Honor" by Dr. Carroll Osburn, 1997

Leader: ON MY HONOR

Scouts: Almighty God, keep us always mindful that our honor is a possession to be cherished as dearly as life itself. Endow us with firmness of purpose and uncommon integrity that will enable us to fulfill those responsibilities with which we are charged. Make us ever conscious of the trust others have placed in us as Scouts.

Leader: TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD

Scouts : Creator of the universe, how often we forget the true source of life's joys and pleasures. How often, too, have we failed to remember the origin of the inward strength, which has enabled us to be aware of Your continual presence in our daily lives. Help us to understand the more meaningful rewards of service in Your name.

Leader: AND MY COUNTRY

Scouts : We thank Thee, Almighty God, for the privilege of living in a country such as the United States of America. Keep foremost in our minds that the freedoms, which we enjoy, were bought through the unselfish sacrifices of those who have gone before us. As the strength of a country is in her people, let us never avoid our responsibility to maintain this nation as a beacon of hope and freedom to all mankind.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 8 (Common English Version)

Our LORD and Ruler, your name is wonderful everywhere on earth! You let your glory be seen in the heavens above.

²With praises from children and from tiny infants, you have built a fortress. It makes your enemies silent, and all who turn against you are left speechless.

³I often think of the heavens your hands have made, and of the moon and stars you put in place.

⁴Then I ask, "Why do you care about us humans? Why are you concerned for us weaklings?"

⁵You made us a little lower than you yourself, and you have crowned us with glory and honor.

⁶You let us rule everything your hands have made. And you put all of it under our power—

⁷the sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal,

⁸the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and all ocean creatures.

⁹Our LORD and Ruler, your name is wonderful everywhere on earth!

Meditation and Sharing

(The leader may offer a meditation at this time or invite sharing from others present or allow a few minutes for silent reflection.)

Time of Prayer

(A spontaneous or prepared prayer may be offered by the leader, or one of the prayers below may be used.)

Prayer for our Country

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessing upon our country, on the leaders of our nation, and on all who exercise rightful authority in our community.

Unite the inhabitants of our country, whatever their origin and creed, into a bond of true friendship, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard our ideals and institutions of freedom.

May this land under Your Providence be an instrument for peace throughout the world. Amen.

(OR)

Prayer of Thanks

We thank You, O God, for this day, for morning sun and evening star; for flowering of trees and flowing of streams, for life-giving rains and cooling breeze; for the earth's patient turning, the changing of the seasons, the cycle of growth and decay, of life and death. When our eyes behold the beauty and grandeur of Your world, we see the wisdom, power, and goodness of its Creator. We awake and, behold! It's a great day! Amen.

(OR)

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Closing Song

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.

(OR)

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Everything to Be Prepared?"

Quietly we now will part,
Pledging ever in our heart,
To strive to do our best each day,
As we travel down life's way.
Happiness we'll try to give,
Try a better life to live.
'Til all the world be joined in love,
And live in peace under skies above.

Blessing/Benediction

May God bless us and protect us;
May God show us favor and be gracious to us;
May God show us kindness and grant us peace. Amen.

(OR)

May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us til we meet again. Amen.

Interfaith Service II

WELCOME & PRAYER

Mighty God, thank you for the opportunity to be here in the midst of the beauty and majesty of your creation. Give us the strength to endure the challenges of this day, the wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to push ourselves further than we ever have before. Bless each Scout and each leader as we journey together through the adventure of Scouting. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING (I Corinthians 13)

Leader: Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

Scouts: And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Leader: And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Scouts: Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Leader: Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Scouts: Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

Leader: Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Scouts: Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Leader: For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

Scouts: But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

Leader: When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Scouts: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I

know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Leader: And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

A Litany of the Scout Law

Leader: A true and worthy person recognizes his obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

Scouts: A scout is trustworthy.

Leader: We owe much to many – to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

Scouts: A scout is loyal.

Leader: The Good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

Scouts: A scout is helpful.

Leader: No one likes a grouchy self centered person who only cares about themselves. We must be willing to share our time with others.

Scouts: A scout is friendly.

Leader: Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

Scouts: A scout is courteous.

Leader: Kindliness is the way people show respect for others.

Scouts: A scout is kind.

Leader: Life is filled with things that we must do whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.

Scouts: A scout is obedient.

Leader: Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, our day is always brighter.

Scouts: A scout is cheerful.

Leader: The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.

Scouts: A scout is thrifty.

Leader: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. In the choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.

Scouts: A scout is brave.

Leader: Cleanliness is said to be next to Godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement worthy of praise.

Scouts: A scout is clean.

Leader: Most of our character is determined by the things we worship. Whatever we put first in our life will determine the course and content of our life. When God is first, everything else falls into place.

Scouts: A Scout is reverent.

All: Give us clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts, O God. Teach us to work hard and to play fairly. Forgive us when we are unkind and help us to help others. Send us strength to do a good turn each day and help us to do your will in all areas of our life.

CHALLENGE TO ARROWMEN

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer Composed by Chief Yellow Lark, a Blackfoot Indian

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your many children. I am weak and small. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame. Amen.

BLESSING

May the Blessings of our God be upon you,
We bless you in the Mighty Name of God!
May the Blessings of our God be upon you,
We bless you in the Mighty Name of God!

Interfaith Service III

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Open our eyes, O God, that see may see You everywhere. Grant that our hearts may be in harmony with the beauty and order that is about us, and that we may live as loving children in our Father's world. Amen.

SONG

This is the Day

This is the day
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice
We will rejoice
And be glad in it
And be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made.

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: God is the Eternal One, Who reigned before any being had yet been created; When all was done according to God's will, God's Name was already Sovereign.

Scouts: And after all has ceased to be, Still will God reign in solitary majesty; God was, God is, God shall be in glory.

Leader: And God is One, without comparison, without being, without end; To God belongs power and dominion.

Scouts: And the Sovereign of all is my God, My living Redeemer, My rock in time of trouble and distress; My banner and my Refuge, My benefactor, to whom, in anguish, I can call.

**All: Into God's hands I entrust my spirit, Both when I sleep as when I wake;
And with my spirit, my body also: God is with me, I will not fear.**

Unison Prayer

**Our Father, make us trustworthy, for there are those who trust us.
Make us loyal, for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.
Teach us to be helpful, for through helpfulness do we forget our selfishness.
Make us friendly, for there are so many who need a friend.
Train us in courtesy, for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor.
Make us kind, for kindness is the oil in the cogs of life's machinery.
Make us cheerful, for cheerfulness is the green grass among the rocks
in the path of life.
Train us in thrift, for thrifty habits brighten our future.
Make us brave; brave in the dark and brave in the light, but save us
from becoming fakers of bravery.
Help us to be clean; clean in thoughts, in speech, and in deed. And may
we remember that our bodies are Thy holy temples, and that any abuse
thereof is to tamper with Thy Great Plans. Above all, O God, help us to be
reverent toward all things which Thou hast made for our enjoyment when we
are in Thy great out-of-doors, among the trees, along the streams, and on the
hillsides.
May we know it was Thee who made the waters to flow, the trees to
reach heavenward, the mountains to endure all ages.
In all these things we ask that Thou wilt help us. And may we never forget the
Scout Oath to which we all have pledged ourselves, so that through Thy help
we may live these points of our Scout Law.**

-Lord Baden-Powell

Reflection

Song

**O God, our Help in Ages Past
O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,

before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

BENEDICTION

A Simple Blessing

May you walk in Peace,
Live with Love,
Work with Joy,
And May Your God go with you. Amen.

Basic Outline for Interfaith Services

(Below is a less detailed outline for Interfaith Services for those who may wish to prepare their own service(s). The order of the elements of worship is suggested only – various elements may be moved around or omitted to make the service most appropriate to the setting in which it will be conducted. For example, you may find that no one is available to lead the arrowmen or scouts present in singing and so the songs may be left out.)

Welcome

Opening Prayer or Invocation

(You may choose a prayer from the “Prayer” section of this booklet located on pages 5-13, or you may wish to use another prayer, prepare your own prayer, or pray spontaneously.)

Responsive Reading or Call to Worship

(A Responsive Reading or other Call to Worship may be offered. You may choose one from one of the 3 Interfaith Worship Services contained in this booklet or prepare one to be distributed to arrowmen and scouts attending the service.)

Song

(You may choose a song from the “Songs for Use in Worship” section of this booklet located on pages 14-18 or you may wish to use another song that does not contain language or ideas specific to one faith group.)

Reading or Sharing a Story

(A brief reading may be read or short story told, preferably one that will relate to the Message or Time of Sharing. Appropriate readings will reflect general spiritual ideas and will be accessible to all faiths. They should not be specific to one faith only, but may be drawn the Scriptures of different faith groups if appropriate, scouting literature and experiences, or other spiritual readings.)

Message or Time of Sharing

(You may offer a brief message – recommended 3 to 5 minutes – or invite others to share briefly on a topic. Preparation beforehand is encouraged. Appropriate topics include – nature, servant leadership, service to others and God, faith and citizenship, etc.)

Silence

(A few moments or minutes of silence may be observed to encourage individuals to reflect on their own faith and spirituality.)

Prayer

(You may choose a prayer from the “Prayer” section of this booklet located on pages 5-13, or you may wish to use another prayer, prepare your own prayer, or pray spontaneously.)

Song

(You may choose a song from the “Songs for Use in Worship” section of this booklet located on pages 14-18 or you may wish to use another song that does not contain language or ideas specific to one faith group.)

Blessing or Benediction

(You may choose a benediction or blessing from the “Prayer” section of this booklet located on pages 12-13, or you may wish to use another, prepare your own, or offer a spontaneous benediction or blessing.)