

A Prayer for Christians and Muslims

—Wadīf Z. Haddad

Almighty and gracious God,
you have created, of one blood,
all men and women to dwell on this earth,
and you have appointed us, each and all,
to be your vicegerents. . . . on this earth,
that we may endeavor to be good and faithful stewards.

You have created us with hearts and minds
with which to know you and love you,
and to know and love each other as brothers and sisters,
and care for one another as members of the People of God.

We have multiplied and filled the earth as you had commanded
and have become peoples of differing languages, races,
0colors, and religious communities.

You intended this to be a means of knowing each other,
and to compete, as in a race, in good works,
vying with each other only in righteousness and piety;¹
instead, and here we confess,
we have used our differences—any differences—
to dominate each other,
to obtain and hoard more than our share of your bounty.

We have tired to grow in power
and the more powerful we became,
the more tyrannical and brutal we have become in treating others.
Indeed, we have made a mess of things.
And unless we relent and turn to you, to your guidance,
and awake from our heedlessness, . . .
we will surely perish, in this world and in the next.

We beseech you to enlighten our hearts and minds anew
that we may expand our communications with others
and be your instruments
in building bridges between individuals, societies, and nations,
in furthering pursuit for peace and good will.

And to you be the praise and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Wadīf Haddad was Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary (Hartford, CT) for many years. At the time this prayer was penned, he was a member of the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Advisory Committee on Interfaith Relations and its Christian-Muslim Relations sub-committee. "A Prayer for Christians and Muslims" is taken from Hartford Seminary's Praxis, Winter 1992-93, and is posted on the IEL website with permission.

¹ Cf. Qurʾān, 5:48.



“love
your
neighbor
as
yourself”

