



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC · *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds*



Prayers for Iran



Prayer Service for Iran

Sundays@4: Sung Evening Prayer
Christ Church Cathedral, February 15, 2026 at 4:00 PM

You are invited to join in the prayers and singing of the congregational hymns and refrains as we make our offering of prayer and praise. Indications for standing and sitting are suggested, although we invite you to adopt a posture according to your comfort and custom.

Prelude *“Come and find the quiet centre,” performed by the Cathedral Taizé Choir*

Gathering Song *“Ey Iran, Ey Marz-e Porgohar,” performed by Yazdan Jahan.*

Welcome The Rev'd Areta Bridgemohan, Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral

(We stand)

The Dean/Officiant The Cathedral sits on the ancestral lands of the of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Coast Salish Peoples. Consistent with our values of community, inclusion and respecting the dignity of every human being, we have a responsibility to acknowledge, honour and make visible the Cathedral's relationship to Native peoples.

All **From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.**

The Service of Light *(Standing)*

Sentence *(Officiant)*

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. [Matthew 17.5]

Officiant Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People **A light no darkness can extinguish.**

(Candles and lamps are lit during the singing of the hymn.)



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
 Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
 Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
 Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
 Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see.
 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 shared un - til all are fed.
 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

Thanksgiving

Officiant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Officiant

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe!

Your word brings on the dusk of evening,

your wisdom creates both night and day.

You determine the cycles of time,

arrange the succession of seasons,

and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

Lord of the starry hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

People

Amen.

(All sit)

Incense may be offered as Psalm 141 is sung

Psalm

141: 1-4a, 8

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 ELCIA, admin Augsburg Fortress

Music: Gerhard Cartford © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

The congregation sings the refrain with the choir. A reader recites the verses.

Refrain

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense; and the
lift - ing of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. _____

O Lord I call to you; Come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. **REFRAIN**

Set a watch before my mouth O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing. Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you Lord God; in you I take refuge; Strip me not of my life. **REFRAIN**

(The following responses are spoken.)

Officiant O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
People **Hear my voice when I cry to you.**

All **Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 72 *(Seated)*

All sing the refrain twice in Latin at the beginning. As the leader speaks the psalm verses, we hum softly.

Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Words: Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Words and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- 2 that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- 3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people, rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.

REFRAIN

Dm G Dm B♭ C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B♭ C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 He shall rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9 His foes shall bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust. **REFRAIN**
- 10 The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
 and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All rulers shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cry out in distress and the oppressed who have no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor and shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
 and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live! And may there be given to him gold from Arabia;
 may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long. **REFRAIN**
- 16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth, growing thick even on the hilltops;
 may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth.
- 17 May his name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures;
 may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.
- 18 Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel, for you alone do wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be your glorious name for ever
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen. **REFRAIN**

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen. **REFRAIN**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading Zahhak Poem - read by Mohammadsadegh Rezaeizadeh

به نام خداوند جان و خرد
In the name of the Lord of soul and wisdom,
کزین برتر اندیشه برنگذرد
Beyond whom no thought can ever rise.

چو ضحاک شد بر جهان شهریار
When Zahhak became sovereign over the world,
بر او سالیان گشت بسیار خوار
The passing years grew base and wretched under his reign.

دو مار سیه بر سر شانه داشت
Two black serpents sprang from his shoulders,
جهان را ز بیداد، ویرانه داشت
And through tyranny, he laid the world to ruin.

ز مغز جوانان خورش می ساختند
From the brains of youths, they prepared his daily food,
دل پاک مردی می آزرده
And thus they tormented the pure hearts of men.

نهان گشت آیین و داد از جهان
Righteous custom and justice vanished from the earth,
سیاهی بُد و ترس و آه و فغان
Darkness remained—fear, lamentation, and endless cries.

جهان گشت پر بیم و پر گفت و گوی
The world was filled with dread and whispered unrest,
نهان شد ز هر کس ره راست خوی
The path of integrity was hidden from every soul.

کسی را زبان بر نیامد ز داد
No one dared lift a tongue in the name of justice,
که ضحاک بیدادگر بُد، نژاد
For Zahhak was tyranny itself by nature and birth.

چنین تا برآمد یکی مرد پاک
Thus it was—until a righteous man arose,
ز دلیران، به نام کاوه هلاک
From among the brave, named Kaveh the steadfast.

نه شاه و نه گنجور و نه نامدار
Neither king nor treasurer nor famed noble,
یکی آهن‌آهنگر از روزگار
But a blacksmith, shaped by time and toil.

دلش پر ز دردِ پسرهای خویش
His heart was heavy with grief for his sons,
که ضحاکشان برده بود از پیش
Whom Zahhak had taken before his eyes.

بر آشفت کاوه، بر آن دستگاه
Kaveh raged before the royal court,
برآورد فریاد، کای ننگ و آه
He cried aloud: "O shame! O sorrow!"

همه گفت: «این تختِ شاهی مباد
He declared: "May such a throne never stand,
که بر خونِ مردم شود بنیاد
If it is founded upon the blood of the people!"

برون کرد پیش‌بندِ چرمی ز تن
He tore the leather apron from his waist,
برآویخت بر نیزه، آن کهن
And raised that humble cloth upon a spear.

همان شد درفش کاویان
Thus it became the Banner of Kaveh,
که خوانندش امروز ایرانیان
Which Iranians still remember by name.

چو مردم بدیدند آن رایتِ داد
When the people beheld that standard of justice,
همه دل ز بیداد برداشتند یاد
Their hearts turned away from tyranny.

به فریدون گرایید لشکر به راه
The host turned its course toward Fereyduh,
که او بود جوینده دادخواه
For he was the seeker and restorer of justice.

سر انجام شد بسته ضحاک دون
At last the vile Zahhak was bound in chains,
نه بر تخت، بل در دل کوهسار خون
Not upon a throne, but deep within blood-stained mountains.

نمآند آن شب تیره بی سحر
That dark night without dawn did not endure—
سپیدی دمید از پس هر خطر
From beyond all peril, the light of dawn arose.

Responsory [*Spoken*]

Officiant Lord, you are my light and my salvation; you are the strength of my life.
All **Lord, you are my light and my salvation; you are the strength of my life.**
Officiant The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
All **Lord, you are my light and my salvation; you are the strength of my life.**
Officiant The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.
All **Lord, you are my light and my salvation; you are the strength of my life.**

Song **“O Iran, O dwelling of hope, dawn has risen upon your roof.”**
Performed by Yazdan Jahan

Reading Luke 9: 18-27

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.”

He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.”

Then he said to them all, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves?”

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Indeed, truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

Reflection Dr. Hamed Taherdost

Musical Meditation Yazdan Jahan

Affirmation of Faith *(Said by all, standing.)*

Officiant Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Christ died for our sins**
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.

Votive Candle Lighting

We invite you to come forward to light votive candles in memory of those who have died in the pursuit of justice, those who mourn their loss, and those who continue to struggle.

During the candle lighting the musicians sing:

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come Holy Spirit'. It consists of three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody:' and contains a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The middle staff is labeled 'Harmony:' and contains a two-part harmony in the same key and time. The bottom staff is a bass line. The lyrics 'Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.' are written below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: *Come Holy Spirit*; Verses drawn from the Pentecost Sequence; Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Officiant May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All **Amen.**

Following the service, there will be tea and halva in the entry (Narthex).

Participants

Clergy The Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan, Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral
Reader Mohammadsadegh Rezaeizadeh
Speaker Dr. Hamed Taherdost
Intercessor Mohammadsadegh Rezaeizadeh
Music Yazdan Jahan
 The Cathedral Taizé Choir and instrumentalists; Neil Cockburn (*Director of Music*)

Thank you for your prayerful stewardship of the ministries of the Cathedral. Your generous gift of any amount matters, because your stewardship empowers our mission to advance the Good News of God’s infinite love and mercy through our worship, ministries, formation, and service. **You may make a gift of cash or check in the offering plate on the way out. You may also use one of the methods below.** We present our gifts at the Altar as a sign of thanksgiving to God, from whom all good things come.

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This worship takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), Sk^wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, in the heart of Vancouver.

Collect for Iran from the Church of England.

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