

God Across Cultures: Islam, Our Muslim Friends

We share history with people who have loved and followed God. Our Christian roots intertwine with Islam roots. Abraham was the father of both cultures. We are called to be good neighbors to all members of the human family.

Welcome: This is the Day

Leader: This is the day

All: This is the day

Leader: That the Lord has made.

All: That the Lord has made.

Leader: Let us rejoice

All: Let us rejoice

Leader: And be glad in it.

All: And be glad in it.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. REPEAT



Greeting: Hello or Peace

Hallo “Ha low” (German) _

CIAO “CHOW” (Italian) _____

Hello (English) _____

Ni háo “Nee how” (Chinese) _____

Hola “Oh la” (Spanish) _____

Kamusta “Ka MOOSE tah” (Filipino) _____

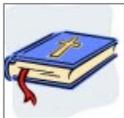
Shalom! “Sha LOME” (Hebrew) _____

Salvete! “Sal veh tay” (Latin) _____

Habari “Ha bar ee” (Swahili) _____

American Sign Language see above

Boozhoo “oo-ZHOO” Ojibwe _____



Scripture: (what is the same in the Bible and Quran?)

Exodus 20:1-3, 12a God spoke. I am the Lord your God. You must have no other gods before me... Honor your mother and your father.

Matthew 26:36-39 Teacher, which commandment is the greatest? Jesus said, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Qur'an 92:83 Worship only God (Allah). Be good to parents and kindred, to orphans and the poor. Speak kindly to others.



Explore: Sing Hymn 431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



Discuss: The Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, and the Quran share stories about God and Jewish and Muslim people. Abraham was father to Isaac and Ishmael. They were the first leaders of the two religions.

- Christians have customs similar to Muslims. We go to church to worship and pray on Sunday. Muslims go to mosques to pray together on Friday.
- Holiday: For one month, called **Ramadan**, Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight. At Ramadan they say special prayers. At **Eid al-Fitr**, the Festival of Breaking Fast, they celebrate. They pray, give to charity and have meals.
- Ramadan is like **Lent**. For six weeks, Christians say extra prayers. We read the Bible more often. We repent. We may give something up or do something good. Some Christians fast from meat on Fridays. What holiday do we celebrate at the end of Lent? How do we celebrate the risen Christ?
- The **Quran** says Muslims should dress modestly. Some women wear head scarves called hijab. This custom goes back to the Bible and Quran. Some Christians and Muslims believe it is God’s will. Some women wear a head scarf to respect and be closer to God. There are many reasons. Do you wear or do anything that shows the world you are Christian? (cross or fish or ...) What reminds you to be closer to God?
- **Five Pillars** Muslims have five duties. One is to pray 5 times a day. At times, they use a string with 33 or 99 prayer beads. They say “God is Glorious, God is Great, All Praise to God” as they touch each bead. [*Zoom: show and use your beads or finger pray as we say the closing prayer*]



Pray:

Leader: Dear God, you are glorious

All: God is Glorious. Thank you, God.

Leader: God is great.

All: God is great. Thank you, God.

Leader: All praise to God.

All: All praise to God. Thank you, God. Amen.



Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth | United Methodist Hymn 431

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 sister
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
With peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

Activity:

Prayer Beads aka Fidget Materials: 33 (or 99) Beads, stiff plastic string or thick thread plus needle for threading (you can make beads from quick dry clay).

- String beads.
- Tie with a square knot or fishermen's knot chain; leave a tail.
- Use these prayer beads with the prayer at the end of this class.
- Touch a different bead each time you say, "Thank you God."

Before Next Time:

Continue to pray with your new beads.

Learn More:

In conversation with a lawyer (Luke 10:25), Jesus said that his neighbor, the one to whom he should show love and compassion, included a stranger, a Samaritan. Today, Christ's call (Luke 10:27) includes people of other faiths. It is not just that historical events have forced us together. The Christian faith impels us to love our neighbors of other faiths and to seek to live in in community with them. In Minnesota, Christian churches and Muslims join to help people in need through interfaith action. The “Book of Resolutions” say Methodists should seek to remedy situations where Muslims encounter misunderstanding, prejudice, or hostility.