

Trump Calls on Americans to Use the 'Power of Prayer' to End Violence and Protect Religious Liberty

About 100 people—religious leaders, Trump administration officials, and their guests—celebrated the “power of prayer” at the White House Wednesday night ahead of the day set aside annually for Americans of all faiths to pray for thanks and guidance.

“America will be a nation that believes forever, and we certainly believe—more than anyone—the power of prayer,” President Donald J. Trump declared in the State Dining Room before continuing with an unscripted flourish: “It’s the most powerful thing there is.”

In his opening remarks preceding the National Day of Prayer, the president welcomed representatives of various faiths, including Christians, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs and Hindus.

“Tonight we break bread together united by our love of God, and we renew our resolve to protect the sacred freedom of religion—all of us,” he said.

The president also acknowledged the recent religiously motivated attacks both in the United States and abroad.

“All of us in this room send our love and prayers to the Jewish Americans wounded at the Chabad of Poway shooting in California,” he said. “And our hearts break for the life of Laurie Gilbert-Kaye, who was so wickedly taken from us.”

“We mourn for the Christians murdered in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday and grieve for the Muslims murdered at their mosques in

New Zealand,” he added. “Here at home, we also remember the three historically black churches burned recently in Louisiana and the horrific shooting last year at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.”

The roomful of staff and supporters of Trump’s religious liberty policies applauded when he called for an end to violence and terrorism against people of all faiths.

Many well-known evangelical Christian leaders attended the White House dinner. They were perhaps his most enthusiastic supporters, greeting the president warmly as he and First Lady Melania Trump entered the room hand-in-hand. Some of them included Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, James and Shirley Dobson, Jentezen Franklin, Jerry Falwell Jr., Franklin Graham, Mike Huckabee, Robert Jeffress, Alveda King, Johnnie Moore, Ralph Reed and Paula White.

Saluting their approval of his record, he referenced what many of them acknowledge originally motivated their support for his candidacy.

“I’m thrilled to report that tomorrow the Senate will confirm the 100th federal judge through the court system,” he announced. “Under my administration, we’re getting to a level where we’re going to be breaking records with respect to the judiciary, which means a lot to the people in this room who were treated very poorly. With time you’ll see what happens.”
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