



Interfaith Celebration

World Transplant Games 2025

**17th
Aug**

1 pm



WELCOME TO THE INTERFAITH CELEBRATION AT THE WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES 2025

Honouring the Gift of Life

Dear guests from near and far,

we warmly welcome you to the Frauenkirche: this remarkable house of worship, whose history of destruction and reconstruction stands as a powerful symbol of hope and new beginnings. At the heart of this interfaith celebration marking the opening of the World Transplant Games lies a deep appreciation for life – that unique, God-given gift that unites us across all boundaries: of religion, origin, gender, sexual orientation, and way of life. Whether we are athletic or not – we all carry the gift of life within us.

Organ donation is an expression of this shared humanity. It is often accompanied by pain, by loss, by farewell. And yet, it is also an act of courage, of humility, and of hope – hope for renewed life, for a second chance. The Frauenkirche lends this message a special resonance. Its history of suffering and silence, of reconciliation and renewal reminds us of the fragility of life. And at the same time of its power to heal and to begin a new.

Today, we give thanks together: for the life we have been given, and for all those who pass it on. We celebrate this spirit of openness in respect, diversity, and compassion. And we pray for successful and unifying World Transplant Games 2025 here in Dresden.

MARIA NOTH & MARKUS ENGELHARDT

Managing Directors

Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation

A warm welcome to all guests of the World Transplant Games 2025 and all visitors to the Frauenkirche Dresden.

The World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) is the international organisation that organises and promotes the world's largest sporting events for transplant recipients. It is committed to raising awareness of organ donation and improving the quality of life of transplant recipients worldwide.

The new life we have received through organ donation is our most precious gift.

In this special place, we want to celebrate the gift of our lives together in mutual respect and remember our lifesavers.

May this celebration unite us all and accompany us well throughout the week of the Games.

GUDRUN MANUWALD-SEEMÜLLER

President TransDia Germany - Host of the Games

Official Representative World Transplant Games 2025 Dresden GmbH

PROGRAM OF THE INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

MUSIC

Toccata on the Hymn Tune 'Hanover' – Kenneth Leighton

Organist Gary Sieling, Great Britain

GREETINGS

Maria Noth

Managing Director Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation, Germany

Willie Uys

*Vice President – The World Transplant Games Federation,
South Africa*

Angelika Behnke

Pastor Frauenkirche Dresden, Germany

MUSIC

Hymn of Love

Ensemble COEXIST, Germany

I have come to say a word, and I will say it.

I have come to welcome the glory of love... with the light of beauty.

In my depths lies a hunger for love –

Oh, for love.

I have come to be for all and with all –

Oh, for all.

I come in the hope of sharing a healing tear that comforts all broken hearts,

And I wish everyone a smile of contentment, with which I greet Allah (God).

Allah (God)!

PRAYERS

Sandeep Kaimal

India

The Gāyatrī Mantra is an ancient and sacred Hindu mantra (prayer) from the Rīg Veda (Mandala 3.62.10), which is the among the oldest spiritual texts known to humanity. Dedicated to the Vedic solar deity Savitr, this 24-syllable mantra is attributed to the much revered sage Viśvāmitra. The Gāyatrī Mantra is chanted across the entire Indian subcontinent and its power bestows auspicious beginnings, peace, wisdom and spiritual energy to the worshipper.

„We meditate on the glory of that Being who has produced this universe; may She enlighten our minds.“ - Swami Vivekandanda

„The Sun is the symbol of divine Light that is coming down and Gayatri gives expression to the aspiration asking that divine Light to come down and give impulsion to all the activities of the mind.“ - Sri Aurobindo

|| Om Peace Peace ||

Omar Hashem

Saudi Arabia

O Allah, to You belongs all praise — abundant, pure, and blessed — as befits the majesty of your Face and the greatness of Your Sovereignty.

O Allah, I praise You for Your countless blessings — for the gift of Islam, for the gift of faith, for the blessing of health and well-being, for my family, for wealth, and for life itself.

O Allah, I thank You for granting me healing, for blessing me with mercy that brought me back to life. I praise You for the gift of organ transplantation that was a means for my recovery. I thank You for every hand that helped, every heart that prayed, and every soul You guided to support my healing.

O Allah, You granted us life after weakness and illness, and from Your mercy, You made certain people a reason for our survival. So honor them with Your generosity, O Most Merciful.

O Allah, reward those who donated their organs with the best of rewards — whether they are living or have passed away. Envelop them in Your mercy, expand their graves with light, and place their donation in their scale of good deeds, as a means of elevation in the ranks of Paradise.

O Allah, make their bodies — which gave us life — a means for their forgiveness. Illuminate their graves just as they illuminated our path to recovery.

O Allah, bless their families. Grant them patience and contentment. Fill their hearts with peace and tranquility. Be pleased with them and grant them satisfaction. Reward them abundantly in this life and the Hereafter.

O Allah, count them among those about whom You said: “And whoever saves a life, it is as if he saved all of mankind.” Fill their records with good deeds and draw them near to You, O Most Generous.

O Allah, make me among the grateful. Guide me to use these blessings in obedience to You. Make them a strength for me in fulfilling Your pleasure. Bless my family and loved ones. Protect them with Your care, and continue to shower upon us Your blessings, protection, and mercy.

O Allah, do not make me among the heedless. Make me always mindful, thankful, and patient.
Forgive my shortcomings and increase me in Your grace and bounty,
O Most Merciful of the merciful.

O Allah, just as You revived me after weakness and illness, let me live in obedience to You — a life that pleases You, a life of service to others, and a source of goodness for as long as I Live.

And may Your peace and blessings be upon our master Muhammad, and upon his family and companions.

Michael Hurshell

Germany

*Leviticus 26:6,
Amos 5:24 and
Isaiah 11:19*

Rabbi Nachman's Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will,
Holy One, our God, our ancestors' God,
that you erase war and bloodshed from the world
and in its place draw down
a great and glorious peace
so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation
neither shall they learn war any more.
Rather, may all the inhabitants of the earth
recognise and deeply know
this great truth:
that we have not come into this world
for strife and division
nor for hatred and rage,
nor provocation and bloodshed.
We have come here only
to encounter You,
eternally blessed One.

And so,
we ask your compassion upon us;
raise up, by us, what is written:

*I shall place peace upon the earth
and you shall lie down safe and undisturbed
and I shall banish evil beasts from the earth
and the sword shall not pass through your land.
but let justice come in waves like water
and righteousness flow like a river,
for the earth shall be full
of the knowledge of the Holy One
as the waters cover the sea.*

So may it be.
And we say:
Amen.

Gianaurelio Cuniberti

Germany

The Holy Bible,

Psalm 139:1-3, 5-18

MUSIC

Avinu Malkeinu

Ensemble COEXIST, Germany

Our Father, our King, hear our voice.

Our Father, our King, we have sinned before You!

Our Father, our King, have compassion on us, on our infants and our little children.

Our Father, our King, bring an end to plague, sword, and famine among us.

Our Father, our King, bring an end to all oppression and destruction upon us.

Our Father, our King, inscribe us in the Book of Good Life.

Our Father, our King, renew for us a good year.

TESTIMONIALS

Stefanie Didszun

Germany

Moments that change life forever

My name is Stefanie Didszun, and I call the beautiful city of Dresden my home.

For my father Wilfried, my mother Kerstin, my sister Maria, and me, there are two dates — or for a handful of people, at least one — that changed our lives completely.

Thursday, October 14, 2021, changed our lives forever.

On that day, Martin went to work as usual. But on his way home, an aneurysm ruptured in his brain. Thanks to the quick actions of emergency responders and doctors, he was airlifted to the hospital here in Dresden. When I first saw him in the hospital, I thought of COVID-19 — the dominant image in the media at the time.

Then my mother called and asked, “Do you know what Martin thought about organ donation?”

I did. I knew he was in favor of it — as we all are in our family. That phone call was how I found out that my brother was in the hospital — and that he was brain dead. He had been carrying his organ donor card with him.

It took four days — to let go, and to be able to let go.
Four days until brain death was officially confirmed.
Four days of shock.
Four days to say goodbye.
Four days in Dresden-Friedrichstadt Hospital, where nurses, staff, and doctors did everything they could for Martin — and for us.
Four days until the organ donation.
On October 18, 2021, at 1:50 p.m., Martin passed away — and became a hero.
Six adults and one child were given a second chance at life. His early death gave others hope.
I am proud that my hometown, Dresden, is hosting the World Transplant Games — a celebration of people who have received a new lease on life through organ donation; of people who never gave up and overcame tremendous adversity; of people who could not be here without the death of another.
The “Spenderfamilien Netzwerk” — a network of donor families from across Germany — wishes, amidst all the celebration, for a spark of reverence in memory of the loss we live with every day.
As organ donation receives more attention, we simply ask not to be forgotten.
A word of thanks can make even the deepest sorrow feel a little lighter.

Dr. Samuel Fung

Hong Kong

MUSIC

**‘Touch her soft lips and part’ from the film music to Henry V –
William Walton**

Organist Gary Sieling

TESTIMONIALS

Andrzej Lewandowski

Poland

Sandeep Kaimal

India

MUSIC

March from the film music to Henry V – William Walton

Organist Gary Sieling

SPIRITUAL ADDRESS

Angelika Behnke

Pastor Frauenkirche

Dresden

The Holy Bible,

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

THE RIBBON

A Symbol of our

Unity in Diversity

Let's connect!

In many cultures and religions, a ribbon stands for bonding, loyalty, and unity. Today, we place such a symbol at the heart of our interfaith celebration: a simple shoelace. It may be just a small piece, but it becomes part of something greater when we link it with others.

The colors of our ribbons reflect our diversity. But only together does it become clear what connects us. As we wear these ribbons during the World Transplant Games – and perhaps beyond – they remind us of our shared bond in all our differences.

We invite you: connect your ribbon with those of the people next to you, in front of you, or behind you. Take a moment to talk: Who are you? Where are you from? What brought you here today?

Music will accompany this moment and lead us into a communal song.

Shalom aleikum

A

Sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom, sha - lom, le -
 Hilf, Herr, mei - nes Le - bens, dass ich nicht ver - ge - bens,
 Sa la mu a - lei - kum, Frie - de sei mit Dir. ____

5
 hi - tra - ot, le - hi - tra - ot, sha - lom, Sha - sha - lom
 dass ich nicht ver - ge - bens hier auf Er - den bin.
 a - lei - kum sa - lam und der Frie - de mit dir

WISHES

from all participants

MUSIC

Prelude in C Major – Johann Sebastian Bach

*Florian Lorenzana, Switzerland with musical accompaniment by
Sebastian Römisch*

BLESSING

Please rise.

Angelika Behnke

Pastor Frauenkirche Dresden

MUSIC

‘Con moto maestoso’ from Sonata no. 3 – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Organist Gary Sieling

Contributors

Liturgy and spiritual
address

Pastor Angelika Behnke *Germany*

Prayers

Gianaurelio Cuniberti *Germany*
Michael Hurshell *Germany*
Omar Hashem *Saudi Arabia*
Sandeep Kaimal *India*

Testimonials

Stefanie Didszun *Germany*
Dr. Samuel Fung *Hong Kong*
Sandeep Kaimal *India*
Andrzej Lewandowski *Poland*

Music

Ensemble COEXIST *Germany*
Organist Gary Sieling *Great Britain*
Singer Florian Lorenzana *Switzerland*

Vice President – The World
Transplant Games Federation

Willie Uys *South Africa*

Frauenkirche Dresden
Foundation

Maria Noth *Germany*

On the occasion of the World Transplant Games in Dresden, we join with guests from around the world to celebrate the bond between religions and cultures – in a house of worship that, like few others, stands for reconciliation, peace, and new beginnings. Today's offering supports the peace-building work of the Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation. We thank you sincerely for your contribution!

DONATION ACCOUNT

Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden
Commerzbank AG

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BIC: DRESDEFF850

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now!*



www.frauenkirche-dresden.de



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