

## **We Cannot Merely Pray to You**

**Adapted from a prayer by Rabbi Jack Reimer**

**Led by Mayor Anthony Foxx during Temple Beth El's MLK Shabbat Service**

**January 15, 2010**

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war, for we know that you have made the world in such a way that man must find his own path to peace within himself and with his neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation, for you have already given us resources with which to feed the whole wide world, if we could only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root our prejudice, for you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair, for you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease, for you have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healings, if we would only use them constructively.

And as Mayor of Charlotte, I would add, we cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out homelessness, for you have already given us the passion, the resources, and the leaders and citizens – from the faith, civic and business communities - who have the ability to build structures and policies for all to have affordable homes, if only we would work compassionately and collaboratively.

Therefore we pray to you instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power, to do instead of just to pray, to become instead of merely to wish.

