



Interfaith Messaging Guide: Faith and Democracy in the Face of Authoritarianism

Introduction

At Interfaith Alliance, we believe democracy is more than a system of government—it is a reflection of our deepest spiritual values. Across faith traditions and ethical worldviews, we are called to affirm human dignity, challenge injustice, and protect the freedom of conscience. In this resource, we offer guidance for faith leaders, advocates, and communities who seek to resist authoritarianism and defend democracy. Whether used for sermons, public statements, rallies, or teaching, these messages speak to the moral clarity that our moment demands.

Core Messages and Themes

These messages are intended for sermons, public remarks, op-eds, and social media.

1. Politicians Should Not Be Worshipped or Deified

Diverse religious teachings warn against elevating any person to a place of unquestioned power or blind loyalty. Whether we worship God, follow ancestral wisdom, or ground ourselves in ethical humanism, we share a belief that no political figure is beyond questioning, criticism and accountability. Reverence belongs to the sacred, not the self-appointed.

2. Democracy Is a Moral Imperative

Democracy honors the sacred worth of every person. It demands equity, compassion, and accountability—values deeply rooted in our religious and ethical teachings.

3. Authoritarianism Is a Spiritual Crisis

Christian nationalism and political authoritarianism distort religion into a tool for control and obedience. This isn't faith—it's a betrayal of the divine call to love, justice, and humility.



4. No Leader Is Above the Law

In a healthy democracy, no person holds unrestricted power—not even a president. The rule of law, transparency, and accountability are spiritual and civic obligations.

5. Our Diversity Is Sacred

Democracy thrives on difference, and so does faith. Any attempt to impose one religious viewpoint over others is an attack on both pluralism and religious freedom.

Sample Rally Sign Messages

Encourage attendees and congregants to amplify faith-rooted messages at actions, vigils, or gatherings:

- “People of Faith Against Authoritarianism”
- “My Religion Doesn’t Bow to Presidents”
- “We Worship Justice, Not Power”
- “No Kings, No Theocracy, No Fear”
- “Faith Demands Freedom”
- “Interfaith and Interfree”
- “Love Thy Neighbor, Not Just Thy Voter Base”
- “Sacred Worth > Political Power”

Faith-Rooted Talking Points

These concise messages, grounded in various traditions, are ready for use in public statements, sermons, or interfaith gatherings.

- **Judaism:**
“We are commanded to pursue justice, not kingship. The prophets stood with the people, not the palace.”
‘Justice, justice shall you pursue...’ (Deuteronomy 16:20)



- **Christianity:**

"Jesus overturned the tables of empire. He called us not to rule, but to serve."

'The last will be first, and the first will be last.' (Matthew 20:16)

'You cannot serve both God and mammon.' (Matthew 6:24)

- **Islam:**

"The Qur'an teaches that power is a trust, not a right. Justice is the path of God."

'God commands justice, the doing of good...' (Qur'an 16:90)

'O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice.' (Qur'an 4:135)

- **Hinduism:**

"True leadership aligns with dharma—selfless action, not domination."

'Whenever there is a decline in righteousness... I manifest Myself.' (Bhagavad Gita 4:7)

- **Buddhism:**

"Right action and right intention reject domination. Attachment to power breeds suffering."

'Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love.' (Dhammapada 1:5)

- **Unitarian Universalism:**

"We affirm the worth and dignity of every person and the right of conscience."
Principles 1 & 5: 'The inherent worth and dignity of every person' and 'The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.'

- **Humanist and Ethical Voices:**

"A free society depends on moral responsibility, not coercive power."

Humanist Manifesto III: 'Knowledge derived from experience must be tested by critical reason and shared in a democratic society.'