

**ICJS**  
COURSE

# Muslim Prayer in America: Its Meaning and Practice

*With Zeyneb Sayilgan, Ph.D., ICJS Muslim Scholar*

WEDNESDAYS | MAY 4, 11, & 18 2022

**IN PERSON OPTION**  
10 AM-NOON @ICJS

**VIRTUAL OPTION**  
7-8:30 PM EDT VIA ZOOM

*Free—Register Today!*



# Course Outline

- ❑ **Class 1: Theological Foundations:  
Prayer in the Qur'an**
- ❑ **Class 2: Embodied Practice:  
Prayer in the Life of Prophet  
Muhammad**
- ❑ **Class 3: Culture and Context:  
Prayer in American Muslim Life**

## [Diyanet Center of America, Lanham MD](#)

**Optional  
Mosque Visit**

**22 May, 2022  
@4pm**

**[Register here](#)**



# Today's Agenda

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7:00-7:05 p.m.	Introduction
7:05-7:10 p.m.	Course Outline
7:10-7:55 p.m.	Embodied Practice: Prayer in Prophet Muhammad's Life
7:55-8:20 p.m.	Small-group Discussion
8:20-8:30 p.m.	Plenary

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## *Salat* - Prayer as:

- Embodied Testimony of Faith
- Act of Remembrance
- Ultimate Expression of Gratitude
- Universal performance of Creation
- Expression of stewardship
- Prophetic Legacy and Connection
- Source of [Strength](#) and Patience (see Impact on [Mental Health](#))
- Means for Purification and Repentance
- Protection from Immorality
- Positive Character Development

**Prayer in Qur'an**

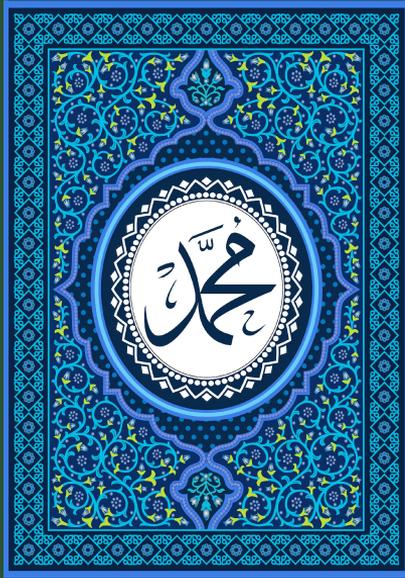


# Major Sources for Muslim life

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1. **The Qur'an - The Word of God**
2. **The Sunna: The Example of  
Prophet Muhammad**





## The Sunna

Prophet Muhammad's living example (Arabic: habit, model)

His sayings, actions, silent approvals are codified in [hadith](#) collections

*You have a good model in the Messenger of God for one who hopes for God and the Last Day.” (Qur’an 33:21)*

*Say: if you love God, follow me and God will love you. (Qur’an 3:31)*



The  
Miraculous  
Night Journey

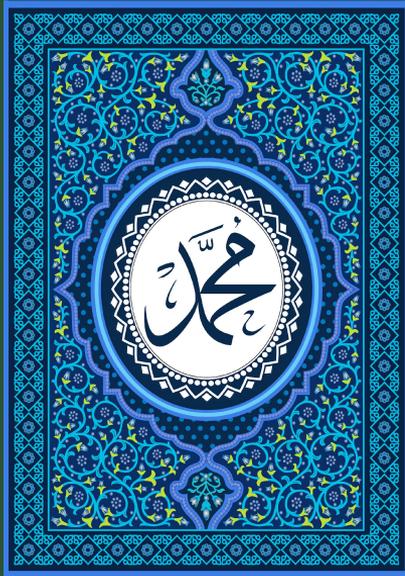
**Ascent after Anguish**  
Reflections on the Isra & Miraj

Wed, March 10 at 7:30pm ET



**RSVP: [Bit.ly/ISRA-SS](https://bit.ly/ISRA-SS)**





# Prophet Muhammad on Prayer

*Prophet Muhammad was asked, 'Which deed is the dearest to God? He replied, To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times.' (Hadith al-Bukhari 527).*

*The Messenger of God said, "The prayer is the pillar of the religion."  
(Jami'us Saghir)*

*The Prophet said, "Between faith and unbelief is abandoning the prayer."  
(Muslim)*

*The Messenger of God said: "The example of the five (daily) prayers is like that of a clear-water river flowing in front of your houses in which a person washes himself five times a day – cleansing him from all dirt." (Bukhari and Muslim)*

*The Prophet continued to pray until he was so exhausted as not being able to stand. One of his people asked him why he exhausted himself so much though he was given the good news of Paradise. He replied: "Shall I not be a grateful servant to God? (Ahmad ibn Hanbal)*

*The rewards of praying together with the community is twenty times more than the one performed alone. (Sahih Bukhari)*

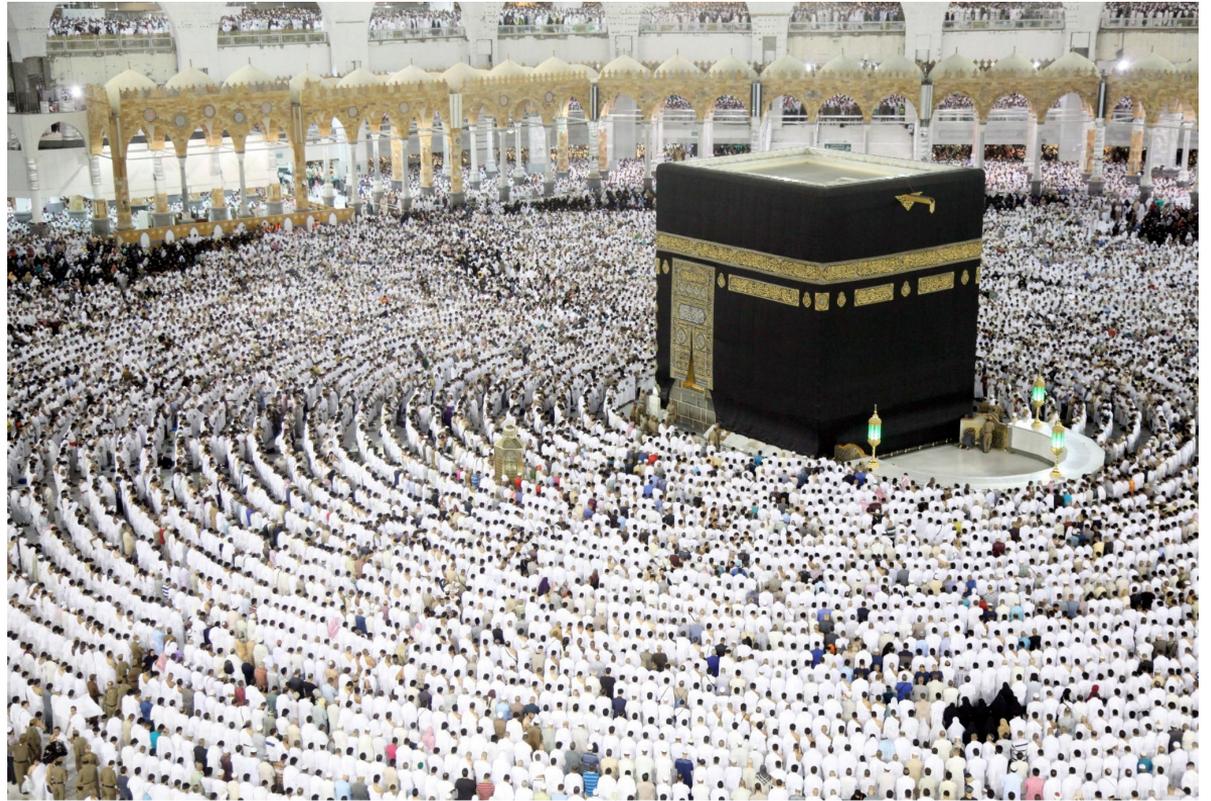


# Prophetic Performance of Prayer

## Prayer Requirements:

- Obligation for every adult, sane Muslim
- Time
- Purification of Body and Space
- Modesty
- Right Intention and mindfulness
- Direction (*qibla*)

# Call to Prayer



# Five Times of Prayer

*It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; all the celestial bodies swim along, each in its rounded course*

(Q 21:33).

- 1- Morning (*fajr*): Infancy
- 2- Noon (*dhuhr*): Youth
- 3- Afternoon (*asr*): Mature age
- 4- Evening (*maghrib*): Old age
- 5- Night prayer (*isha*): Death

# The Ritual Ablution *(wudu)*



# THIRD POINT

*Just as the human being is an example in miniature of the greater world and Sura al-Fatiha a shining sample of the Qur'an of Mighty Stature, so are the prescribed prayers a comprehensive, luminous index of all varieties of worship, and a sacred map pointing to all the shades of worship of all the classes of creatures. (The Ninth Word)*





*In The Name of God, The Most Merciful, The Most Compassionate*

*All Praise is Due to God, Lord of the Worlds  
The Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate*

*The Owner of the Day of Judgement*

*It is You who we worship, and You we ask for help*

*Guide us to the straight path*

*The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked anger or of those who are astray*

***Al-Fatiha***

**The Opening**





## The Muslim Prayer

## Small Group Questions

- Reflect on what you have learned so far. Review together the Qur'an's and Prophet's description of prayer
- What was entirely new to you? What has surprised you?
- What aspects have spoken most to you and why?
- Considering the requirements for performing the Muslim prayer throughout daily life, what challenges do you anticipate for Muslims navigating a secular context? Reflect on time, ablution, space and current public attitudes on Islam and Muslims etc.
- What aspects of the Muslim prayer can contribute to the mental, moral and social well-being of individuals and to American society?

