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**Opening Remarks by The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
at the 2018 Templeton Prize Ceremony
Washington National Cathedral, November 13, 2018**

Good evening, my name is Randy Hollerith and it is my joy and honor to serve as the dean of Washington National Cathedral. Welcome to all of you, especially to His Majesty King Abdullah and to Secretary-General Guterres. We are grateful to Heather Templeton Dill and the Trustees of the John Templeton Foundation for the opportunity to host this evening's ceremony.

On behalf of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, and the clergy and staff of this Cathedral, please know that you are always welcome in this house of prayer for all people.

This Cathedral has four main priorities: Welcoming all people, Deepening our relationships with God and with each other, Serving all of God's children, and Convening conversations around the most important topics in our life together.

Your Majesty, you too have welcomed all sides to the table. You have convened princes and presidents in the quest for peace in the Holy Land. Your efforts have deepened interfaith relationships, and in doing all of that, you have served humanity and the Creator of us all.

At the rear of the Cathedral is a statue of Abraham Lincoln, and in 1865 he reminded us that "God's work must truly be our own." The fight for peace and mutual understanding is nothing short of God's work, and His Majesty has shown each of us how to truly make it our own.

And so, Your Majesty, thank you for your tireless work for peace. To the John Templeton Foundation and the Templeton Prize, thank you for reminding us of the things that matter most. And to each of you, thank you for your presence here tonight. God bless you.

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