

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVATIONS.....

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



In support of our patients, their families, and our employees, faculty members and students, this information is offered as a resource about the Baha'i holy day, Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

History and Meaning

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá is a day that commemorates the death of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the eldest son and successor of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith. His funeral was attended by more than 10,000 mourners of all different religious backgrounds, and his body was laid to rest in a vault next to the vault of the Báb on Mount Carmel. 'Abdu'l-Bahá means "servant of Bahá." Baha'i followers wanted to honor him on his birthday, May 23, but that was already a day of great significance — the declaration of the Báb. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was very humble and dedicated to his faith. He did not want to be celebrated on his birthday, so Baha'i followers decided to honor him on his deathday.

Relevant Observances

- Gather in prayer, worship and celebration of unity and acceptance.
- All are welcome to join the celebration regardless of differences in faith or beliefs.

Tips for Supporting Patients

- Special foods and drinks may be requested and should be allowed if medically appropriate.
- Patients may want to have visitors during the evening hours.

Tips for Supporting Staff, Faculty and Students

- Employees, faculty members and students may request this time off. This should be allowed.

For More Information

Please contact the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity at diversity@jhmi.edu or Paula Teague, senior director of the Department of Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy, at pteague1@jhmi.edu.