



Prayers for peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; Kindle, we pray thee, in every heart the true love of peace; and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Peace of the World – from the Book of Common Prayer

“Let us pray with one heart and one soul - Lord come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace.

Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say:
‘Never again war’. Lord hear us”

Pope Francis and His Eminence the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

“Violence is never a solution. Retribution is never a contribution to peace. Please pray today for that peace. Pray for all who have lost their lives and for the immediate release of those taken hostage.

“Pray especially for the small but active Catholic community in Gaza City who at this moment will be reaching out courageously to their neighbours, trying to offer shelter and support. Today please pray the great prayer of the Rosary that this conflict, in the homeland of Mary herself, will quickly come to an end.”

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world, for we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others - hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

We entrust the countries of our Lord’s earthly home into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, asking him to have mercy on us all and to give us his peace and blessing. Amen.

Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

Lord Jesus, while you hung in agony,
In your innocence crucified, you cried to your Father,
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
In the midst of such great darkness be among the suffering in your land,
and be their light in the darkness.
Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Reverend John Reese, Friends of the Holy Land Prayer and Spiritual Lead

We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us. Lord, we raise all people in the Holy Land to you, and pray for those suffering. We ask that you provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted.

Fr Mamdouh AbuSada, Director of the School of Joy, Bethlehem

O God of all
Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael:
Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.
Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve,
Console and heal the injured,
Be close to those in fear,
Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetuate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,
That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security for all.
Amen.

Revd Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Lord God,
It is with shock and horror we witness the devastating violence and loss of life in Israel-Palestine over recent days.

We come to you as the source of all comfort
Asking that you send your Spirit to surround and uphold
All those who are grieving,
All those who are suffering,
All those in fear,
And all those in captivity.
May the arms of comfort and compassion, overwhelm the arms of war.

We come to you as the source of all peace
asking that you send your Spirit to
strengthen and uphold those pursuing an end to violence,
embolden those with a heart for truth and justice,
and amplify voices of wisdom and restraint.
May the light of peace and reconciliation, overwhelm the darkness of destruction.
We come to you as the source of hope,
asking that you send your Spirit to bring about a future,
where neighbours embrace despite their differences,
where love conquers hate,
humility surpasses pride,

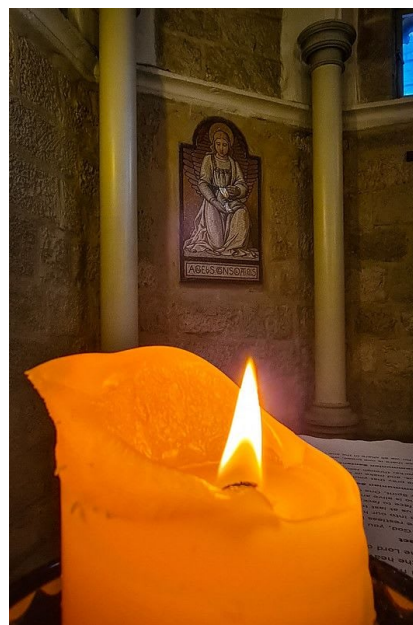
and where forgiveness is treasured as a fundamental strength.
May the hope of a day when weapons of conflict will be transformed into tools for reconciliation be realised soon,
So that there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.
Amen.

Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’
Matthew 5.9

Lord Jesus,
who walked the land you made holy
and blessed those who made peace;
look with compassion
on the people of your land today,
Jew and Muslim and Christian,
Israeli and Palestinian.
May peace come for all with justice,
may war cease and all live in harmony,
and be the children of the one God
who you made known,
now and always.

The Very Rev Andrew Nunn



O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians, for all people of the land.
While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, for to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Revd Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem

Dear Heavenly Father,
We bring this situation before you Lord and ask for a swift end to violence. Our hearts are breaking for the children and families in Israel and the Occupied Territories who have and continue to experience the unspeakable horror of attacks and war all around them. We pray for peace and ask that you will guide the hearts and minds of those in leadership.

We especially pray for those children who have been physically and emotionally injured, and for those who have lost loved ones, that you will provide the right people with the right resources to help them, and that you will protect each person.

Lord, we ask for your wisdom for all those involved and for the wider international community.

Amen.

World Vision

We lift up those who have died as victims since the start of this war, and pray for comfort for their families and loved ones.

We ask God to heal those who have suffered injury and trauma, both physically and psychologically.

And we pray for God's holy protection on those innocents still caught in the crossfire, especially the staff of Ahli Hospital.

May God bless them as they minister tirelessly to the wounded who are carried into their wards.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem—and security for all who live within its lands.

Revd Don Binder, Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem at The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:

Jews, Muslims and Christians,
Palestinians and Israelis.

Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice
could be experienced by all. Amen

via Terry Hephrun, President of Burnley Catenian Circle 54

Lord, you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of those who seek you.

Hear your people who today cry out for peace
in the land your footprints made holy,
the lands we today call Palestine and Israel.

Take away the people's fears and still their troubled hearts,
heal the wounded and comfort the bereaved,
gather into your arms the souls of the dead.

You once calmed the storm to take away your disciples' fears,
calm now the storm of violence that rages
across your Holy Land

that brings fear and terror into innocent hearts
so that all people – be they Christian, Jew or Muslim –
can seek the ways of true justice, love and peace together,
turning their backs on violence and aggression
seeking instead the ways of friendship and respect.

Fr. David Borland

Lord have mercy

I saw the newborn Jesus today, not in the warmth and safety of a stable lent by a kindly innkeeper but wrapped in a blanket, exposed to the elements on a roadside in Gaza.

I saw Joseph the holy father today totally unable to care for his wife and her child, unable to offer them food or protection from the bombs that relentlessly fly overhead when they are so far from home.

I saw countless Rachels weeping for their innocent, helpless children for they are no more. Bombed, starved, dying for want of urgent medical care.

I saw thousands of frightened people today far from home, ordered to move by those in authority not for a census, but so that their homes, their livelihoods can be levelled to the ground and their hopes erased.

I saw thousands of rampaging soldiers today seeking vengeance on innocents. Children, women the elderly killed in their thousands. I saw them accompanying and supporting violent settlers breaking into the homes of unarmed civilians in The West bank murdering the defenceless in their homes simply because they were Palestinians.

I saw Mary, mother of God today, cradling the bloodied, battered body of her son today blown apart by an airstrike.

I saw his friends unable to give him a burial. The hospitals have run out of shrouds and funeral processions are seen as legitimate targets.

No loaves or fishes anymore; no water into wine. No bread, no water, no medicine ,no hope.

Where is the good news for the poor, the freedom for the oppressed?

I heard the voice of Cain today. He spoke on behalf of the world community: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

But quietly, almost inaudibly I heard another voice.

Blessed are the sorrowful: they shall find consolation.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail: they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the peace makers they shall be called God's children.

Whatever you did for one of my brothers here you did for me.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.

Revd Alison Askew

Please pray for the Christian leaders, and their congregations who increasingly feel insecure in the land of their birth.

Pray for the leaders of Hamas, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, long trapped in a spiral of mistrust and hate.

Pray for the fearful, the injured, the bereaved, the homeless and the despairing.

These prayers are taken from Friends of the Holy Land - giving hope to vulnerable Christians. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk