



## Prayers for peace for the Middle East

July 2014

*These are harsh times for the people of the Middle East - Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Israel and many are asking for our prayers and solidarity. Here we offer a number of prayers for personal or community use.*

### Prayer for Peace: Pope Francis, 9 June 2014

*Offered during meetings with Presidents of Palestine and Israel and Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and representatives of Jews, Christians and Muslims gathered in the Vatican to pray for peace in Palestine & Israel.*

To him, the Father, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, I now turn, begging the intercession of the Virgin Mary, a daughter of the Holy Land and our Mother.

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms.

How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, 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!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.

Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of:

Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

## A prayer for peace in the Middle East

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence. Guide the leaders of the people of the Middle East to know your will and to support a just peace for all of your children.

God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.

God of hope, we lift up the city of Jerusalem, distracted and divided, yet still filled with promise as all the cities of the world. Come again into our cities, places of worship, Upper Rooms and Gethsemanes, that we may be given sight to recognize you.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all our people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in you that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

*From the Church of Scotland website*

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## Pax Christi Interfaith Prayer for Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace.  
Praised be your name forever.  
We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.  
Your power changes hearts  
Muslims, Christians and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm,  
that they are followers of the one God,  
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;  
Enemies begin to speak to one another;  
those who were estranged join hands in friendship;  
nations seek the way of peace together.  
Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these  
truths by the way we live.

**Give to us:**  
**Understanding** that puts an end to strife;  
**Mercy** that quenches hatred, and  
**Forgiveness** that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love. Amen

## Pax Christi Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

We come to you, God Creator.  
You are the source of life and beauty and power.  
Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.  
Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.  
You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,  
Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.  
You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,  
weigh heavily on the peoples of the Middle East.  
Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.

We renew our acceptance of your call.

*We promise to work:  
To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,  
To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,  
To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,  
the disadvantaged, the marginalized,  
And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.  
Amen.*