

# Voices of the young... visions for the future

*World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel*

**Prayer: Where are you, God?**

*By Jan Sutch Pickard*

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**Voice A:** Just and merciful God,

we glimpse your presence in the world you have created,  
its power and its beauty, music and poetry,  
its diversity, fertility, the possibility of food for everyone –  
ancient olive trees and fruit to be harvested –  
the dream of fullness of life for all your children:

Yes, God, you are with us in this world. **R/ Yes, God, you are with us in this world.**

**Voice B:** Yet we see that power misused, beauty marred,  
Discord, lies and fear dividing humankind –  
as well as concrete walls and barbed wire –  
failure to share causing hunger or consuming anger.  
Where are you, God? **R/ Where are you, God?**

**Voice A:** We hear the Good News that Jesus brought,  
the affirmation of the value of every human life,  
the Gospel that commands us to seek peace with justice;  
we understand that costly reconciliation is at its heart:

Yes, God, you are with us in this world. **R/ Yes, God, you are with us in this world.**

**Voice B:** Yet we see that good news denied by apathy,  
mocked by prejudice, hatred and refusal to forgive,  
and we feel helpless in the face of suffering.  
Where are you, God? **R/ Where are you, God?**

**Voice A:** You are present where women and men of good will  
still choose to live in your way,  
caring for creation and for each other,  
courageously speaking truth to power.

**Voice B:** You are there when elderly people share their wisdom,  
And young people share their dreams.  
You are there when street children dance in the rain,  
where, over the rubble, kites are flying.

**All:** You are present wherever, in this broken world, hope is alive.