

## World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel September 2020

### Prayer and worship resources

Praised be You, my Lord,  
For our Sister, Mother Earth,  
who nourishes us and teaches us,  
bringing forth all kinds of fruits  
and coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise to You, my Lord,  
For those who forgive one  
another in Your love,  
and who bear sickness and trials.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace,  
for they will be  
crowned by You, Most High!

*From the Canticle of Creatures, St Francis of Assisi*

*“Then justice will dwell in the land  
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.  
The effect of righteousness will be peace  
and the result of righteousness, quietness  
and trust forever.” – Isaiah 32:16-17*

O God of life and love and peace,  
We witness the violence and injustice in your  
Holy Land  
And our hearts break.

Our hearts break for all Palestinians—  
For the victims of violent attacks from Israelis  
For those who have endured decades of  
occupation and oppression  
For those whose homes and olive orchards  
have been demolished  
For those who languish in Israeli prisons and  
in the “open air prison” of Gaza  
For those without nearly enough water and  
electricity and medical care  
For those who are refugees, long displaced  
from their homes.

Our hearts break for the Jewish  
people of Israel—  
For the victims of violent attacks from  
Palestinians  
For those who live with fear and insecurity  
For those who re-live the trauma of the  
Holocaust over and over.



Our hearts break for the wider world—  
For those who are indifferent to the pain and  
suffering in your Holy Land  
For those who distort or turn their eyes from  
truth  
For those who fail to see the humanity of all  
your children.

Heal us all, O God.  
Heal the broken and comfort the sorrowful.  
Give hope to the hopeless and courage  
to the fearful.  
Strengthen the peacemakers and reconcilers.  
Confront those who practice injustice and  
commit violence.

We especially pray—  
That weapons of war be laid down  
That walls of separation and the machinery of  
occupation be dismantled  
That prisoners be released  
That demonizing of “the other” cease  
That political leaders seek the good of all  
people in Palestine and Israel.

We pray also for ourselves—  
That our eyes will be opened to the ways in  
which our beliefs and actions have  
contributed to injustice and to violence.

O God, whose heart breaks for the world,  
May your justice dwell in the land  
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields  
May the effect of righteousness be quietness  
and trust forever  
May the effect of justice be peace – enduring  
peace. Amen  
*(Mennonite Central Committee 2018)*

## A Special Prayer - from World Day of Prayer International

Gracious God, our heavenly Father,  
We pray on these special hard days when you  
have called us to be your followers. Give us  
the strength to love each other and not to  
hate each other, even our enemies.  
Please God, hear our prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to  
forgive our enemies but not to forget our  
political rights. Help us, the Palestinians, to  
see you in the hearts of Israelis and help the  
Israelis to see you in our hearts.  
*Please God, hear our prayers*

Lord, our Father, we pray in a special way for  
our families, for our children, especially  
those who live scattered in different Arab  
countries, for those who live in the occupied  
part of Northern Palestine, especially those in  
the Nazareth area.  
*Please God, hear our prayers*

God our Lord, we pray that you will  
strengthen our religious leaders and your  
church especially in Jerusalem. Let your  
church be always a guidance to its  
worshippers. Keep your presence among us.  
In a special way, we ask you God to

strengthen the WDP in our country, in  
Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and  
Nazareth.

*Please God, hear our prayers.*

We pray in a special way for the elderly, for  
the future of our children. Give us the  
strength to educate them in the real Christian  
education

*Please God, hear our prayers*

God, in a special way, we pray that you will  
put an end to the Coronavirus, COVID-19.  
Please God, so that it will stop spreading  
around the world especially in our country  
Palestine, in Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah,  
Nablus, Jerusalem and in our neighbourhood  
where we live, Beit Hanina.

Please God, our Father with your spiritual  
holiness. In a special way, God give us the  
strength; renew us in hope, love and  
sacrifice.

We ask all this in your Holy Name. Amen.

*Please God, hear our prayers.*

*Aida Haddad, WDP Palestine*

## Anemone - a sign of life and hope

The flowers of the field  
The poppy, the anemone -  
blooming now after the spring rains -  
they are different,  
but both are as red as blood:

Scattered across hillsides  
where settlers' children play,  
cared for by teachers carrying guns;

Fragile among the rubble  
where bulldozers groan  
and fatherless children throw stones;

and, even though the wall is built,  
they will still be flowering on both sides,  
fragile as human lives -  
different, but both red as blood.

*Jan Sutch Pickard*  
(From *Between high and low water* - Wild Goose Publications)



*Image: Ann Farr*

## Prayer based on Ephesians 2:14

God, Loving Parent of all humankind, you are our Peace.

In Jesus Christ you embodied peace with justice  
- and you still do - peace at its most down to earth,  
peace, which can still prevail in the face of all the walls we build.  
We confess our helpless anger, confronted by  
concrete cutting across the daily lives of your children  
limits imposed on travel, study, healthcare, work,  
worship, family connections, celebrations.

We confess our complicity in maintaining barriers of ignorance,  
fear, privilege, prejudice, 'us' and 'them'.

Our world is crossed by razor wire  
that tears at flesh and draws blood.

But you are our peace, with power  
to cut this wire for good,  
to break down all our walls.

Help us all to share in this work. Amen

*Jan Sutch Pickard, 2016*

## Do you want to be healed? John5:6

Yes, we want to be healed;  
as the dry well longs for water,  
as the exile for her home;  
as the father wants his children,  
and the broken house  
demands its people back.

Yes, we want to be healed:  
as those who live in fear of the enemy  
wish they could breathe safe;  
as the fence that divides the village  
prefers to be torn down;  
as children who dream bad dreams  
need an unbroken night;  
as those who have been paralysed now choose to move.

*From Janet Morley's, Companions of God, Praying for Peace in the Holy Land.*

## Prayers taken from, A Candle of Hope

May our journeying lead us to worthwhile acts,  
where we stand beside those who watch and  
wait and pray  
for justice to be done. Amen

God of Hope  
Forgive us for believing that weapons can bring  
peace.  
Guide us to walk in the footsteps of your son,  
by doing justice,  
showing mercy and walking humbly with you.  
Help us to create communities of peace,  
that are a witness to your alternative ways  
and to the reign of your Kingdom. Amen

God our Mother  
you cradled salvation in a woman's womb,  
surrounding him with rich warmth in that still  
darkness,  
and through history you brought hope out of  
despair  
and design out of apparent disorder.  
Encourage us with that vision in the muddle of  
everyday life  
- as you work with us to bring hope and meaning  
out of the most difficult circumstances. Amen

*Written by Garth Hewitt*