

Prayers for the Middle East

Two peoples, one land, Three faiths, one root,
One earth, one mother, One sky, one beginning,
one future, one destiny, One broken heart,
One God.

We pray to You:

Grant them a vision of unity.

May they see the many in the one and the one in the many.

May you, Life of All the Worlds,

Source of All Amazing Differences

Help them to see clearly.

Guide us gently and firmly toward each other,

Toward peace. *Amen*

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 be experienced by all. Amen.

Almighty God, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Israel and Gaza. We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured or captured, those now without food, shelter, or medical supplies. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace, for your spirit of truth, reconciliation, compassion and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray against fear and blame

This conflict has been going on for the last 76 years. Pray that people will begin to see one another as fellow human beings and will not fear or blame each other. Pray against the spirit of fear and blame.

Pray for the families

Pray for the families and loved ones of those who have been taken hostage and those who have lost their lives or been injured, on both sides. Pray for those who are worried, anxious and grieving.

Pray for an end to the conflict

Pray for an immediate end to the hostility. Pray for people to stop using words of hatred, which undermine each other and make the other side seem less than human. The end of hostility is not just about stopping the firing of bullets, rockets and army incursion – it starts first with the heart and then the mind and the way we speak about each other.

Pray for the peace-makers

Pray for all those who are working for peace, on both sides. Pray that they will take their call to be peacemakers very seriously. Within that, pray for the local churches, Jewish and Arabic.

Pray for faithful Muslims and for Jewish leaders who will talk the conversation of peace and of justice. This conflict needs to come to an end and you need peacemakers to begin to have that conversation.

Pray for those under siege

Pray that the siege in Gaza will be short, especially in relation to food, water, essential amenities and utilities. Gaza has suffered for so long and cannot sustain further suffering. Pray too for the Israeli populations, especially around Gaza, that they will not continue to live in fear, staying in protected areas of their buildings and bomb shelters, but they will be able to move in freedom.

Pray for the children

Remember always the youngsters, the children, who cannot articulate what is going on. Pray for those being held hostage and those living with great fear of bombardment on both sides.

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 and 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

This prayer was written by The Very Revd Canon Richard Swell, Dean of St George's College Jerusalem.

Prayer from Charity - Embrace the Middle East

God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength,

We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.

We pray for those killed and injured by rockets from Gaza in southern Israel. May your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving. May they know your ever-present help. We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil.

We pray for the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. We especially remember all of those who have been killed and wounded in Gaza - may you comfort and heal those who are in pain and those who have lost loved ones.

And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. May you guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.