

Closing Prayer

Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.

Circling Palestine and Israel in Prayer for 40 Days *May 20 to June 28, 2024*

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 Palestinians—
For the victims of violent attacks by the Israeli military
For those being denied water, electricity and medical care
For those who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.

Our hearts break for the people of Israel—
For the victims of violent attacks by Hamas
For those who live with fear and insecurity
For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.

We especially pray—
That weapons of war be laid down
That walls of separation 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.

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.

- Prayer from the Mennonite Central Committee

Prayer for the Crisis in Gaza and Israel

Adapted from Lectio365

Pause

And so, as I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly, to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Pause and pray

Prince of Peace, we cry out to You today for the people of Gaza and Israel; these very lands You know so well.

A prayer for those who are grieving

First, we pray with all our hearts for those grieving the sudden loss of loved ones, those who've been captured, and those whose homes have suddenly been destroyed.

*A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more. (Matthew 2:18)*

Pause and pray

A prayer for de-escalation

Lord, we also pray for a miraculous de-escalation of this dangerous conflict. Terrible things are being done, many thousands have died, homes, universities, hospitals destroyed, many are grieving and angry. Violence is provoking violence but we pray for reason to prevail over rage and revenge. May those with a vested interest in escalating this crisis be restrained.

*[Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,
'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was
completely calm.*

(Mark 4:39)

Pause and pray

A prayer for peace

Finally, Lord, we pray for active and effective peacemaking at an international political level. May the measured voices of diplomacy constrain violence on every side.

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy...
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God. (Matthew 5:7,9)*

Pause and pray

Yielding Promise

And now, as I prepare to take this important time of prayer into the coming day, the Lord who loves me reassures me, saying: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:25).