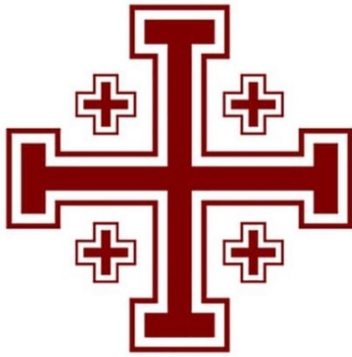


A Service of Litany and Prayers for Peace



Tuesday October 17, 2023

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora

*Blessed are the peace makers,
for they will be called children of God.*

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

A reading from the gospel of Matthew
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Pslam 122

I was glad when they said to me, *

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing *

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *

that is at unity with itself.

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *

the assembly of Israel,

to praise the name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgement, *

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *

and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, *

I will seek to do you good."

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

A litany for the Holy Land written by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

God of Love, you created all people in your image as one family
and called us to live together in justice, harmony and peace.

Surround us with your love as we offer our prayers for the Holy
Land.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion and justice, we cry to you for all who suffer in
the Holy Land today, for all your precious children, Israelis and
Palestinians, traumatized and in fear for their lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for the families of the bereaved, for those who have
seen images they will never forget, for those anxiously waiting
for news, despairing with each passing day.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for young men and women heading into combat,
for those bearing the burden of what others have done and what
they will be asked to do.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For civilians in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, that they would
be protected, and that every life would count, and be cherished
and remembered.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for the wounded, and those facing a lifetime of
scars, for those desperately seeking medical treatment where
there is none.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for medical and emergency personnel risking their
own lives to save those of others.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for those who only see rage and violence, that you
would give them a vision of mercy and turn their hearts towards
kindness for their fellow human beings.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We cry to you for people of peace whose imagination is large enough to conceive of a different way, that they may have courage and wisdom to speak, act and be heard.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you promised that one day swords will be beaten into ploughshares, meet us in our distress for the world and bring peace upon this troubled land.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Collect for Peace.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other prayers may be offered.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.



**PATRIARCHS AND HEADS
OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM**

STATEMENT ON THE ESCALATING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA
Jerusalem, October 13, 2023

"God created mankind in his own image" (Gen 1.27)

Today, an emergency committee of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem met for prayer and consultation over the grave humanitarian crisis that has befallen all of us.

Our beloved Holy Land has changed dramatically over the past week. We are witnessing a new cycle of violence with an unjustifiable attack against all civilians. Tensions continue to rise and more innocent and vulnerable people are paying the ultimate price as the dramatic level of death and destruction in Gaza clearly show.

The order to evacuate the north of Gaza and to ask 1.1 million people—including all the members of our Christian communities there—to relocate to the south within 24 hours will only deepen an already disastrous humanitarian catastrophe. Gaza's entire population is being deprived of electricity, water, fuel supplies, food, and medicine. According to UN sources, 423,000 people have already been displaced because of the destruction of their homes. Many civilians in Gaza have said to us that there are no realistic ways in which they can evacuate to safety in any direction.

We call upon the State of Israel, with the support of the International Community, to allow humanitarian supplies to enter Gaza so that the thousands of innocent civilians may receive medical treatment and basic supplies. Moreover, we call upon all parties to de-escalate this war in order to save innocent lives while still serving the cause of justice.

Finally, in support of all those who have suffered in this war and of the families reeling from the violence, we call upon the people of our congregations and all those of goodwill around the world to observe a Day of Prayer and Fasting on Tuesday, October 17th.

There is yet time to stop the hatred.

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem