

**From:** Presbytery of San Francisco [kthistlethwaite@sfpby.org](mailto:kthistlethwaite@sfpby.org)  
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# A Prayer for Peace in Israel and Palestine

[By Rose Marie Berger](#)

God of Comfort,

**God of Comfort,**

send your Spirit to encompass all those whose lives  
are torn apart by violence and death in Israel and Palestine.

You are the Advocate of the oppressed  
and the One whose eye is on the sparrow.

Let arms reach out in healing, rather than aggression.

Let hearts mourn rather than militarize.

**God of Justice,**

give strength to those whose long work for a just peace  
might seem fruitless now. Strengthen their resolve.

Do not let them feel alone. Show us how to support their work  
and bolster their courage. Guide religious leaders to model  
unity and reconciliation across lines of division.

Guide political leaders to listen with their hearts as they seek peace and pursue  
it.

Help all people choose the rigorous path of just peace and disavow violence.

**God of Love,**

we lift up Palestine and Israel — its people, its land, its creatures.

War is a monster that consumes everything in its path.

Peace is a gift shared at meals of memory with Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

Let us burn incense, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies.

Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries.

We beg for love and compassion to prevail  
on all your holy mountains.

**God of Hope,**

we lift up the cities of the region: Gaza City and Tel Aviv,  
Ramallah and Ashkelon, Deir El Balah and Sderot,  
so long divided, yet so filled with life and creativity.

Come again to breathe peace on your peoples  
that all may recognize you.

**God of Mercy,**

even now work on the hearts of combatants

to choose life over death, reconciliation over retaliation,  
restoration over destruction. Help us resist antisemitism in all its forms,  
especially in our own churches. All people, Israelis and Palestinians,  
deserve to live in peace and unafraid, with a right to determine  
their future together.

**God of the Nations,**

let not one more child or elder be sacrificed on altars of political expediency.

Keep safe all people from unjust leaders who would exploit  
vulnerability for their own distorted ends.

Give wise discernment to those making decisions to pursue peace.  
Provide them insight into fostering well-being, freedom, and thriving for all.

Teach all of us to resolve injustices with righteousness, not rockets.  
Guard our hearts against retaliation, and give us hearts for love alone.

**Strengthen our faith in you, O God of All Flesh,**

even when we don't have clear answers,  
so that we may still offer ourselves nonviolently  
for the cause of peace.

Amen.

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## Resources

- [What Christian Peace Building Looks Like in Israel and Palestine](#): Sojourners is an ecumenical Christian media and advocacy organization that works towards social and racial justice.
- [5 Things you Need to Know about What's Happening in Israel and Gaza](#): The American Friends Service Committee brings together people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge injustice and build peace around the globe.
- [How to Talk with Family and Friends About the Situation in Israel and Palestine](#): Also from the The American Friends Service Committee.
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#): Common Sense

- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#). Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics.
- [How to Talk to Your Children About Conflict and War](#): UNICEF's guide offers eight tips to support and comfort children.
- [Handle with Care: Supporting Young People During Crises](#): Learning for Justice offers recommendations and resources to help guide conversations with young people and to manage potential subsequent actions and reactions.
- [Talking to Children about War](#): The National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers information for caregivers on how to talk to children about war.