



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Justice and International Mission Unit

August 2010

## Prayers for Justice

Merciful God,

We come to place before you the concerns of our lives and the suffering of the world,  
In the midst of skepticism and doubt of your loving being,  
Kindle your light in the hearts of all people to feel your presence,  
To trust in your faithful covenant,  
To have faith in your promises of salvation,  
To believe in the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One.  
In your mercy, we pray.

In the midst of religious plurality,  
Which can cause suspicion and hatred within communities,  
Kindle your light in the hearts of all peoples  
To honour each other as your children, born in your image,  
To respect each other's beliefs,  
To end the use of religion to exercise political and social power,  
To stop discrimination and division based on religion.  
In your mercy, we pray.

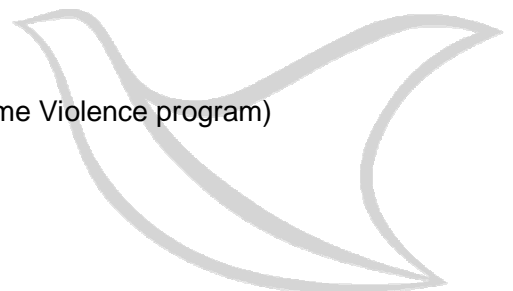
In the midst of terrorist threats and wars in the name of religion,  
Kindle your light in the hearts of all peoples  
To turn our weapons of death into instruments of life,  
To seek truth, peace and justice,  
To offer genuine forgiveness and love,  
To work together in harmony as sisters and brothers  
In caring for victims,  
In comforting those in distress  
In consoling those who live in fear

As we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ,  
Kindle your lights in our hearts  
To keep us watchful and hopeful,  
To open our lives to Christ's coming in many ways through all our days  
- even in the least expected ways,  
To witness to Christ's ministry and love to our neighbours,  
To work together for peace and reconciliation with our neighbours,  
To pray for our concerns in this congregation and in our lives  
(*a moment of silence or praying aloud*)  
In your mercy, we pray.

Gracious God, in your loving embrace hear our prayers and grant all that we need  
To live in anticipation of Christ's glorious advent.

**Amen**

(Prayer from the World Council of Churches, Decade to Overcome Violence program)



## **Prayers for Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine**

(from an order of service from Ireland for the World Council of Churches World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel)

Let us pray.

Our loving heavenly Father, more than ever before, the security and well-being of one people cannot be separated from the fate of another people, nor from us. With our Israeli and Palestinian brothers and sisters, we pray for sustained political engagement leading to a treaty of peace that will finally put an end to the occupation imposed by one people on another, granting freedom to Palestinians, giving security to Israelis, and freeing all from fear.

**Amen**

### **Affirmation**

*Leader: Christ, You are our Peace*

*All: You have broken down the hostility between us.*

*Leader: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female.*

*All: We are all one in You.*

*Leader: God was in You, reconciling the world to God,*

*All: And has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation.*

*Leader: We are in Your body,*

*All: And are members one of another.*

*Leader: We are a community of the Holy Spirit,*

*All: Called to be witnesses of God's love.*

Let us pray.

We remember all the people of Israel and Palestine who suffer – Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, Israeli and Palestinian – all who have been victims of violence, who are bereaved, who are isolated by checkpoints and walls, who are in prison, and all those who live in fear.

We ask that you will intervene and allow all people of faith to join together to make their beliefs a driving force for peace. Let the power of your Redemption and your Peace transcend all barriers of cultures and religions and fill the hearts of all who serve you, of both peoples – Israeli and Palestinian – and of all religions. Lord, we pray for Peace.

*Response: O Lord, hear our prayer*

**A Christian Prayer for Peace** – by Elise Aghazarian, Jerusalem

We pray for more active voices that challenge ambivalence.

For a more effective, profound, and empathetic spirit of solidarity.

For Palestinian farmers whose lands are expropriated, for families whose houses are demolished, for people who are losing their right to live in their cities.

For West Bankers who are not allowed to pray in Jerusalem.

For students who are tired from standing on checkpoints.

For Palestinian women.

For political prisoners.

For those challenging different forms of pain.

For the besieged in Gaza.

For horizons that challenge walls, for steadfastness that challenge despair.

For the freedom of Palestine.

**Amen**