



## Prayers for Peace in the Middle East

Sustain together in undiminished hope, O God of hope,  
those who continue to labor with undiminished determination  
to build peace in the land from which, of old,  
out of brokenness, violence and destruction,  
nevertheless hope emerged for so many of faith. . . .

Bless all the spiritual seed of Abraham together  
with the light of your Presence.

For in the light of your Presence  
we have found a way of justice and mercy  
and a vision of Peace.

We praise you O God, Giver of Peace,  
who commands us to Peace. *Amen*

**Rabbi Herbert Bronstein**

*Northshore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL*

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 could be experienced by all. *Amen.*

**The Reverend Said Ailabouni**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL*

Almighty God!

After almost a century of mistrust and fratricide,  
you inspired Jews, Christians and Muslims  
to take the path of reconciliation in the Middle East. . . .

We ask for your forgiveness, O God,  
yet we find it hard to forgive our past enemies.

May Your Words touch those who still stray  
in the wilderness of vengeful violence,  
forgetting your command to "forgive and overlook,  
till God accomplish His Purpose;  
for God hath power over all things." *Amen*

**Abdelwahab Hechiche**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, FL*

O God Source of Life, Creator of Peace. . .  
Help Your children, anguished and confused,  
To understand the futility of hatred and violence  
And grant them the ability to stretch across  
Political, religious and national boundaries  
So they may confront horror and fear  
By continuing together  
In the search for justice, peace and truth. . . .  
With every fiber of our being  
We beg You, O God,  
To help us not to fail nor falter. *Amen*

**Rabbi H. Rolando Matalon**  
*Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, New York, NY*

Lord God, we turn to you in these trying hours when  
conflict is a daily reality for our sisters and brothers  
in Israel and Palestine. We promise you to work to our  
utmost for peace and reconciliation in the region. But we  
know we cannot do it alone. We very much need the strength  
of your presence in our midst if we are to overcome the  
obstacles before us. So our prayer at this moment is that  
you add your support to our efforts, that you show yourself  
as a tower of strength in those moments when the barriers  
seem impassable. Together we can become beacons of hope  
for just and peaceful societies in the land so very dear  
to the peoples of your covenant. *Amen.*

**Reverend John T. Pawlikowski, OSM**  
*Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL*

In the Name of God, The Everlasting Merciful, The Cherisher  
Of the Worlds and Worthy of all Praise,  
Our Lord: You have created us from a single (pair) of a male  
And a female and made us into Nations and Tribes that we may  
Know one another (not that we may despise each other) so  
Help us to love each other and take the hatred and anger from our  
Hearts so that the People of The Book (Christians, Jews and Muslims)  
In the Middle East may live in Peace and Justice. *Amen*

**Dawud Ahmad Assad**  
*Council of Mosques, USA, New York, NY*

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 us a vision of unity.  
May we 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 us to see clearly.  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other,  
Toward peace. *Amen.*

**Rabbi Sheila Weinberg**  
*Jewish Community of Amherst, Amherst, MA*

O God of peace, you have established Jerusalem as the Lord's House and a place of peace, and you have called on all who live there to love you and prosper. Instill in her inhabitants - Jews, Christians and Muslims - a hunger for justice and dignity and a resolve to end the distrust that culminates in violence. Grant them the wisdom and patience to build a city where Israeli and Palestinian reside in safety, free from oppression and committed to the good of all.

In this endeavor, make everyone of us agents of your peace, O God. Forgive us our indifference and stamp out the prejudices that lead to hatred. Fill us with the reconciling spirit of your presence. So may we join people of good will - in the Middle East and throughout the world - who raise before Jerusalem's gates their insistent Shalom and Salaam: "Peace be within your walls. . . .Peace be within you." *Amen.*

**The Reverends Harry and Judith Hoehler**  
*First Parish (Unitarian-Universalist), Weston, MA*

In the name of God, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful:  
Guide us on the straight way, the way of those whom thou has blessed.  
Help us so that we do not transgress the bounds of what is right and lawful.  
Take us out of deep darkness into light.  
Make us not bear burdens which we have no strength to bear.  
Help us bring about mutual affection and understanding between us.  
Grant us Thy forgiveness and blessings, O Our Sustainer,  
for with Thee is all journeys' end. *Amen.*

**Mian Ashraf**  
*New England Islamic Center, Sharon, MA*

**Selections on the Imperative for Peace  
from Jewish, Christian and Islamic Sacred Texts**

*from the **Hebrew Bible***

Genesis 13:6-9; Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 34:15; Psalm 85:7-13;  
Psalm 122; Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-5; and Proverbs 3:13-18

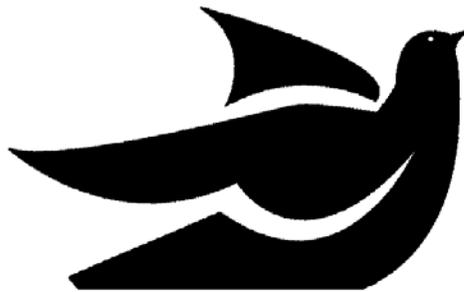
*from the **New Testament***

Matthew 5:1-11, 21-24 and 43-44; Luke 6:32 and 35-36; John 17:20-21;  
Romans 14:19; Ephesians 2:13-14 and 6:12-17; and Hebrews 12:14

*from the **Holy Quran***

Sura 3:20, 84 and 133-134; Sura 4:90; Sura 5:32; Sura 6:54; Sura 8:61;  
Sura 14:23; Sura 16:90; Sura 17:70; Sura 19:62; Sura 41:34; Sura 42:40 and 43

Compiled by  
**U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East**  
16020 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Stanwood, WA 98292  
Tel/Fax: (360) 652-4285; E-Mail: USICPME@aol.com  
Consultant: Ronald J. Young



Office of International Justice and Peace, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 4th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3000  
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