

Please do pray in your own homes on the first Wednesday of every month, at 5pm, for 20 minutes or so, for the land we call Holy but more generally for the whole of the Middle East.

A Litany for Peace in the Middle East

(adapted from daily prayers offered in the Cathedral Church of St George Jerusalem)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem of the Word made flesh, your Son, Jesus Christ, who dwelt among us, full of grace and truth:

For your love and your goodness, we give you thanks, O God

We thank you for Jesus' life, his death in Jerusalem as he carried our sins and suffering, and for his glorious Resurrection in which he gave us new life with him:

For your love and your goodness, we give you thanks, O God

We thank you for entrusting to us the ministry of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace-making for the healing of your creation:

For your love and your goodness, we give you thanks, O God

We pray for all in danger, for those fleeing persecution, and for victims of bloodshed and violence:

Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you

We pray for all who grieve for those they have loved and lost as a result of war, fighting, or separation:

Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you

We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all the leaders of the Middle East, for the work of the United Nations and for relationships with leaders across the rest of your world:

Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you

We pray for all who live in the Middle East, that they may know your ways of peace, justice and reconciliation:

Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you

Heavenly Father, we praise and glorify you. You are our only refuge in a troubled and broken world:

Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you

A period of prayer follows for current specific needs within the 17 areas of the Middle East:

Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Gracious, forgiving God, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace. Give to us and the people of all the countries of the Middle East a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that all people may use their liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen**