# Prayers of the People (Lent 1A)

Holy One,

Your steadfast love surrounds us.

As a shepherd protects his sheep,

you watch over us,

care for us, and

gently lead us through temptation to life-giving paths.

We praise you and give thanks for all the ways we have felt your love and protection this week.

For: [*name celebrations and things that you are thankful for in your community*]

Deliver us, God,

when we are tempted to

* justify the oppression of others
* offer our neighbours stones instead of bread, defeatism instead of hope, or
* avert our attention away from people, places, and situations that make us uncomfortable

Challenge us, God,

challenge the temptation of complacency and turn us to you,

your paths, and your understandings.

We seek your wisdom, so that we can decide how to faithfully respond to

* [*name local concerns*]
* [*name regional concerns*]
* [*name national concerns*]
* the work of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous and First Nations communities
* the conflict in Israel/Palestine

Wherever there is suffering in this world,

wherever a person’s [*sibling’s, loved one’s, friend’s*] basic human rights are not being met,

wherever there is systemic oppression and discrimination,

we ask that you be particularly present, God,

and that you mobilize us to work toward justice-based solutions.

As we start our Lenten journey, strengthen us to do your work in the world.

Amen.

# Prayers of the People (Lent 2A)

Let us turn to God,

the source of our help and strength.

Let us turn to God,

the source of all good things,

in praise and thanksgiving.

For the blessings of [*name prayers of thanksgiving*],

and for blessings without number,

we offer our sincere thanks.

Let us turn to God,

the source of grace,

in contrition.

For all of the times we have turned away from you in search of

easy answers,

quick fixes,

fast judgments, and

irrefutable answers,

we offer our sincere apologies.

Let us turn to God,

the source of our comfort and aid,

in supplication.

For the people in our community in need of your healing and transformation [*name local situations*];

for [*name regional/national and global situations*];

for young people living in Israel/Palestine,who are not able to build roots in their home communities; and

for Israeli and Palestinian people who have emigrated from Israel/Palestine to find emotional and physical security,

we offer our solidarity and support.

Make us ever mindful of how we interpret and use our sacred texts

so that we do not use your Word to justify pain, displacement, condemnation, or oppression.

May we never use the name of God to perpetuate or carry out acts of physical and emotional violence.

May we remember that your Word was sent not to condemn but to give life abundantly.

In all things, God, and at all times, let us turn to you,

the source of our hope,

and our keeper,

from this time on and forevermore.

Amen.

# Prayers of the People (Lent 3A)

Creator,

you are our God and we are your people.

You are with us always;

truly we are never alone.

We proclaim this as our faith,

even as we sometimes wonder: are you among us or not?

We wonder

if you are truly among us, Lord:

Why are so many suffering?

Why do some have access to water while others do not?

Why [*add local concern*]…?

Constantly, God,

we put you to the test.

And like a loving parent,

you scoop us into your arms and offer compassionate care

as we deal with the harsh and heart-breaking realities of our world.

You know, God,

that we strive for more than an intellectual response to our questions;

we need comfort;

we seek strength and guidance to continue our work as the church.

We test you, God, because

we need your security,

we need your assurance,

we need your vision, and

we need your hope.

We need to believe that the joys we have experienced, the joy of [*name community joys*] and the blessings of [*name community blessings*] that we have shared will help to sustain us during times when we feel alone and downtrodden.

We need to believe that healing is possible as we pray for [*name community concerns*] and work toward right relations.

We need to believe that there is a way to work toward a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Israel/Palestine that allows for justice, peace, and liberation for all.

In the most unexpected places and in the most unexpected ways,

reveal yourself to us, God,

and provide us with constant reminders that you are ever-present and ever-responsive to our cries.

So it is with this faith, that we put our hope for justice, peace, and comfort in you, knowing that our hope grows stronger and fiercer as we open ourselves to the reality of the suffering and the joys around us.

Amen.

# Prayers of the People (Lent 4A)

(*based on Psalm 23 and* A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine, *section 3*)

The Lord is our hope, we shall not let go of.

She makes us seek universal justice, peace, and dignity.

She leads us toward reconciliation.

She restores our broken communities.

She takes us to places of horror,

so that we can better proclaim the gospel of peace for her sake.

Even though we walk through uncertainty, indifference, and opposition,

we will continue to seek a better future for Israelis and Palestinians.

[*You may wish to add other specific places or people.*]

For you are with us,

your kingdom of justice, peace, and dignity for all

comforts us.

You prepare tables of dialogue

and opportunities for truth-telling around us.

You open the hearts of hurting people.

We witness to small signs of hope!

Surely we will continue to seek justice and resist evil,

all the days of our lives,

until we are all able to live abundantly.

Amen.

# Prayers of the People (Lent 5A)

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.

Hear our prayers!

We pray for those who feel full of breath and new life [insert community prayers of thanksgiving];

may we give thanks and celebrate with them.

We pray for those who feel desolate and dried up [insert community prayers here];

may they hear your words of hope and your promise to bring new life and healing.

We pray for your people everywhere, God.

We pray for [*name local, national, and global prayer concerns*];

may we wait in solidarity with them for your word of comfort and hope.

We pray for the people of Israel/Palestine, God:

We pray for those who have been harmed and violated by interpretations of these texts.

We pray that all people in Israel/Palestine will be able to go to school or work, visit a loved one in the hospital, chat with a neighbour, or have dinner with a friend with equal dignity and respect.

We pray for all civilians who have suffered violence due to current and past conflicts.

We pray for a just and peaceful solution to the horrible conditions in Israel/Palestine, and we wait,

“more than those who watch for the morning,”

for a time when Israel/Palestine will be a symbol of hope, peace, and reconciliation.

Amen.