# Pastoral Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel

Holy One,  
We long to be people who work for peace with justice.  
But there are times when we are unsure if we can make a difference.  
There are times when we become anxious about taking a step forward.  
There are times when deep in our hearts we know we must face criticism from those who would prefer we remain silent.

Weeping God,  
We long for peace with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel:  
We hear Palestinians cry out, asking us   
“to speak for truth and to take a stand for truth regarding the occupation.”1  
We hear Israeli peace activists echoing the voices of Isaiah and Jeremiah, Amos and Micah,  
calling their government to account for injustices against Palestinians.

We long for safe and secure living conditions for all:

For Israelis who worry about missile attacks from Hamas,  
For Palestinians who live with the constant reality of Israeli military incursions into their homes and communities.

We long for safety for the vulnerable:

For children and other civilians who face live fire, missiles, plastic and rubber bullets,  
stun grenades and land mines, tear gas and skunk water2 attacks.

We long for comfort to those who mourn:

For all who have lost loved ones to violence,  
For those who have been wounded in body, mind, and spirit.

Steadfast God,  
We long for safe shelter for all:

For those whose homes have been demolished,  
For those who have lost access to the land tended by their families for countless generations,  
For those who have been forced into refugee camps for 66 long years,  
For those who are fearful about the safety of their streets.

May we be moved to tears whenever we hear of death or gratuitous violence.

We give thanks for the words of Jesus, who said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,”  
for it is through the peacemakers we find hope.

Grant strength to those who dare to speak truth to power.  
Grant wisdom to those who work for non-violent solutions.

Healing God,  
We ask that you open our hearts.  
Help us to understand the sin, the injustice, and the horror that flow from an occupation.

As we struggle with how to make a difference,

Help us to recognize the ways we support injustice by our silence,   
Help us realize that some of our purchases support those who benefit from the occupation.

Enable us to see a time when peace with justice prevails:

When the occupation ends and good news is proclaimed freely,  
When the captives are released, and  
When your favour is proclaimed across the Holy Land.

Loving God,  
Hear our prayers,  
And guide us in the way of peace with justice, compassion, and mercy.

Amen.

1. *A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine document*, www.kairospalestine.ps/?q=content/document

2. A weapon used for crowd control.