# Peace in Palestine and Israel Worship Service

Here is a link to the [service](https://vimeo.com/590053356) on Vimeo. This video is also available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BCAUYZTZuI). You are welcome to insert local material as you wish.

In 2017 Ineke Medcalf travelled to Palestine and found herself in the middle of a tear gas attack by the Israeli military. Helped and cared for by teenage Palestinians for whom this was a regular occurrence, she found that they were more worried about her safety than about their own. This moment of grace in the midst of danger has stayed with her ever since.

The Palestinian struggle against oppression and injustice has been going on so long that it’s easy to tune it out—headlines from today could be headlines from 20 or even 40 years ago. It is the stories of occupied Palestinian people, like these young Palestinians who are regularly tear-gassed, who make it real.

We offer this worship service as a means of reconnecting with the people who live under this occupation. Through image, song, testimony, prayer, and preaching, we are invited into the lives of Palestinian Christians who are gracious enough to share their faith with us.

Come hear the stories of Jesus’ homeland, and let us sing, weep, and rejoice with the people of the land where Jesus sang, wept, and rejoiced.

The service was developed by Rev. Brenda Curtis, Frances Kitson, Rev. Jeanette Liberty-Duns, Ineke Medcalf, Maureen McPherson and Renee Nunan-Rappard. Rev. Brenda Curtis is the minister of Westminster United Church in Humboldt SK and Quill Lake Pastoral Charge, and is a member of UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel) and HRPI (Human Rights in Palestine and Israel). She was one of a group of ministers who travelled to Israel and Palestine in 2017 on a trip organized by the National Church under the direction of Rev. Adam Hanley. Frances Kitson is a student minister in the Lanigan-Nokomis Pastoral Charge. Rev. Jeanette Liberty-Duns is a retired United Church minister who chairs the Outreach Committee at Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines ON. She travelled to Israel and Palestine as part of a United Church delegation to visit our Palestinian partners. Maureen McPherson is a member of St. Martin’s United Church in Saskatoon SK where she chairs the Outreach Committee. Ineke Medcalf is a member of Silver Spire United Church and the co-founder of the Niagara Movement for Justice in Palestine Israel. She served as an Ecumenical Accompanier and has made many trips to Israel and Palestine. Renee Nunan-Rappard lives near Lanigan SK and is a member of UNJPPI, HRPI, and CJPME (Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East). In 2017 she travelled to Palestine to work as a volunteer, picking olives in the West Bank.

Our speaker is Omar Haramy, a Palestinian Christian living in Jerusalem. Omar currently holds the position of Director at Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre. Sabeel is a Palestinian Christian grassroot organization that aims to liberate Christian theology from people who manipulate scripture to justify the oppression of the Palestinian people. Sabeel also actively develops a theology of liberation to help our Christian community to become active in the work for justice and peace in the Holy Land. Visit the [Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre](https://sabeel.org/) online and learn how you can support the work of Sabeel. See also [Canadian Friends of Sabeel](https://friendsofsabeel.ca/).

The following is information about how you can support Palestinians by buying their products. You might want to insert it into your bulletin.

## Support Palestinian Farmers

[Zatoun](https://zatoun.com) is a charitable organization, based in Canada, which supports Palestinian farmers by selling olive oil, olive oil soap, za’atar (an herb mix of thyme and sumac) and the wonderful Medjool dates. Bulk purchases only. The most economical purchase is the Peace Box for $240 which contains 10 bottles of oil, 4 bars of soap and 4 bags of za’atar. Comes with lots of information about Palestine. Medjool dates can also be purchased through Karen Rodman at Just Peace Advocates (email: [info@justpeaceadvocates.ca](mailto:info@justpeaceadvocates.ca)). You can place a minimum order of 8 boxes (900 grams per box), for $160, which includes free shipping to one address. Best time to order is in the fall, just after harvest.

## Support Palestinian Craftspeople

Craftspeople rely on selling their crafts to make a living. Two organizations which support local craftspeople are [Wi’am](https://www.alaslah.org/), a grassroots organization based in Bethlehem which works to promote peace and justice, and [Touch of Grace](https://touch-grace.com/). Prices are in US dollars. Add about 25% to the cost of the products for shipping. Both of these organizations also offer tours.

## Support Palestinian Human Rights Defenders

Pray for peace in Palestine and Israel—consider using the resources at [The Nativity and Palestine Today](https://livingskiesrc.ca/the-nativity-and-palestine-today/) on the Living Skies Regional Council website.

Take Action by sending an email to Foreign Affairs Minister The Hon. Mélanie Joly or directly to your MP condemning the designation of six leading Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations as “terrorist organizations” by the Israeli government, and asking them to publicly support these organizations.