

# World Day of Prayer

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



**“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love.”**



**Worship Service**

**Large Print**

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine

## CONTENTS OF THIS BOOKLET

Page 2	A Word from the Scottish Convenor
Page 3	Extract of letter from WDP Executive Director
Page 5	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
Page 23	Artwork – Artist Biography and Statement
Page 25	World Day of Prayer Movement
Page 26	How funds were used – Guidelines for Offerings
Page 27	Scottish WDP Committee
Page 28	Map of Palestine

## GREETINGS FROM THE SCOTTISH CONVENOR

### **“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love” Ephesians 4:1-3**

As Christians we are called to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3, NRSV).

However, we must accept that we live in a time in which nobody is perfect. We all have good days and bad days and appreciate the support of friends and family who bear with us when we are not at our best. Across the globe we hear of the dreadful challenges many face - wars, periods of isolation, homelessness, sick loved ones, death and financial loss – all of which may contribute to fear for our own health and safety. As a result we may be prone to being anxious, irritable and impatient when really we should try to remember that anxious people are often hurting people and so we should look out for one another and show an extra measure of love and grace. We must try to “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3, NRSV).

Learning to love is one of our major tasks in life, and it is tested and thereby strengthened when it does not come easy. We need to give people the benefit of the doubt, assuming the best and dealing with them according to the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12), that they would see in us the love of Christ and be drawn to Him. So, let’s remember: “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, withal humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one

another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3, NRSV).

I must honestly state that members of the WDP in Scotland “Bear With One Another in Love”.



Mary Welsh, Convener, WDP Scotland, UK.

## **A letter from WDP International Committee Executive Director**

**Dear WDP sisters and friends,**

**“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love.”**

**Prepared by WDP Palestine**

**March 1, 2024**

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto, “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.” We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.

From Aug 20-27, delegates travelled from around the world to attend the World Day of Prayer International Meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. These women came from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions to pray together, share their stories in community, and make decisions for the future of the movement. It was these delegates who selected the theme and writer committee for 2024.

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their theme is, “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The Worship Service shares stories of three Palestinian Christian women, who witness to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminate the experiences of Pales-



tinian women from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree is used throughout the worship service. This represents the three generations through the trunk, branches, and leaves of the olive tree.

The Palestinian Christian women who wrote this worship service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They also call us to confess to our collective role in causing the climate crisis, and to commit to repairing what we have destroyed. Finally, they call us, the global church, to be united in treating all with justice and love.

The Bible Study calls us to ask what it means to bear with someone in love. And it asks us to reflect on why community is important for Christians. The Bible study challenges us to lift up others around us, and allow others to lift us up.

The Children's Program invites children to reflect on how standing together in love makes us all feel stronger and less alone. It encourages children to imagine how the world could be more loving.

The Country Background gives information about the history and culture of Palestine. It mentions places of significance for Christians, being the birthplace of Christianity. It also reflects on the role of women in Palestinian society, and the history of the World Day of Prayer movement in Palestine.

This program was developed entirely in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking on the responsibility of being a writer country is always a rigorous journey, but it was particularly difficult given the changed realities of a world suffering under a global pandemic. We are grateful to our Palestinian Christian sisters for navigating this process with grace and patience.

Included in these preliminary materials are the Worship Service, Bible Study, Country Background and Children's Program. In coming weeks and months, we will also provide the artwork, music sheets and photographs to accompany the program.

If your WDP Committee would like information about projects and initiatives recommended by women leaders in Palestine, please contact us.

May God continue to bless the world through our commitment to praying and acting together as a global sisterhood of ecumenical Christian women.

*Katie Reimer*

Katie Reimer WDPIC, Executive Director

# Order of Worship

## BEFORE THE SERVICE

- \* Church bells toll as participants are arriving (if available).
- \* Distribute an olive branch or leaf to participants as they enter.

## PROCESSION

Instrumental version of I Urge You starts playing.

Leaders process carrying baskets with lemons, oranges, olives, olive oil, cactus plants or leaves, and flowers such as jasmine or poppies. They place the objects on the altar or around the space.

## GREETING

**Salaam.** Peace be with you.

30 years ago, the women of World Day of Prayer Palestine were invited to write on the theme of "Come, See and Act." Since Palestine is the land where Christianity was born, the women of World Day of Prayer Palestine were invited again to write the program for this year.

A group of ecumenical Palestinian Christian women have worked collectively the last 4 years to pray and reflect on the theme, "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," inspired by Ephesians 4:1-7. And now, they are inviting all people around the world to join them in prayer and action.

## SALUTATION AND RESPONSE

**Leader:** We gather in the Name of the Triune God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** God be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

## OPENING PRAYER

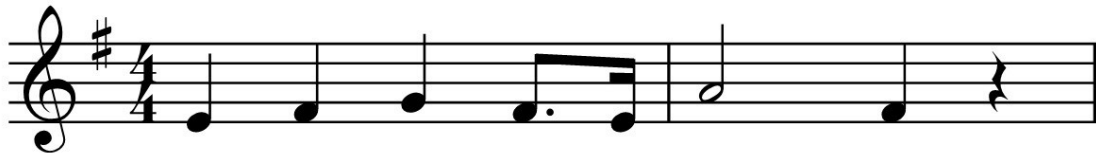
Let us pray.

Triune God, walk with us as we journey through the land where you lived and taught. Open our eyes to see the present suffering of the inhabitants of this land. Grant us the strength and courage to act and pray with all who suffer around the world.

Amen.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE – Yarabba ssalami (God Of Peace)

All sing : Yarabba ssalami



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us,



am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
rain down your peace on the world.

5



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi  
Make a path for your good - ness,



im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
fill e' - vry heart\_ with your peace.

**Leader:** Let us continue in prayer with the words of Psalm 85. Lord, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**All:** You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

**Leader:** You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

**All:** Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

**Leader:** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**All:** Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

**Leader:** Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

**All:** Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**Leader:** Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

**All:** Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Leader:** Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**All:** The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**Leader:** Righteousness will go before him,

**All:** and will make a path for his steps.

**All Sing:** Yarabba ssalami

God of peace, come among us,  
Rain down your peace on the world.  
Make a path for your goodness  
Fill every heart with your peace

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Let us praise God who brings us together to worship in love and unity.

**All:** Unity in the Triune God, transcending differences in views and theological interpretations.

**Leader:** Let us remember these essential qualities of people of faith: humility, gentleness, patience and love.

**All:** We confess our weakness and failure to accept others without judging them.

**Leader:** With humility and patience, we bear the challenges in our families, society, community and church.

**All:** With gentleness and love, we overcome everything. We remain strong in our faith, knowing that we belong to God. Amen.



## Hymn - Love Divine (87 87 D)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

### GOSPEL READING

In the 15th chapter of the gospel of John, Jesus was talking to his beloved disciples in the hours before his crucifixion:

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."*

## A STORY OF RESILIENCE

At a crucial moment of his life, Jesus gave the disciples this commandment: Love one another. Bear with one another in love.

In today's service, we will receive three stories from Palestinian Christian women. Each story is a powerful witness to Jesus' call to bear with one another in love.

### **Let us listen to Eleonor's story.**

My skin is wrinkled like the trunk of an olive tree. Like them, I have witnessed many wars and violence.

I am a Palestinian Christian – a member of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Holy Land.

I come from a deeply rooted old Jerusalem family. In the early 19th century, my great grandfather established St. George's Orthodox Church, which enabled Christians living outside the city walls to have a place to worship.

That church remained in existence until the catastrophe, or Nakba, of 1948, when 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee, disperse and become refugees. My family was included. Due to heavy shelling and bombardment, my parents ran for their lives. They took shelter at my mother's cousin's home, hoping to return soon to their original home and St. George's Church. That never happened. Today, my parents' home and St. George's Church have become the Confederation House, an Israeli cultural centre.

Prior to fleeing, my parents' Jewish neighbours offered to store the treasures of the church, including icons and precious communion cups. They promised to safeguard my parents' property and belongings until the family's return.

As my brothers and I were growing up, my parents remembered their neighbours graciously as they waited for the big day of return. They imagined themselves collecting these sacred items and thanking these neighbours for keeping their promise. Sadly, my parents have passed away without realizing this dream. And yet, I vividly remember that, despite their pain and suffering over all they had lost, my parents were always thankful and spoke kindly about these Jewish neighbours. My parents taught me how to bear with others in love, always remembering to be grateful for those who do good.

## Hymn Chorus

*A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

As I have gone through life as a Palestinian Christian living in Jerusalem, I have chosen to be fully engaged with all members of the community at local and global levels. I learned from my parents' example how important it is to stay together with others, even when life is harsh and difficult.

My commitment to my community started when I was in 6th grade. My Arabic teacher engaged me in running errands for her humanitarian work. She was gentle and loving, which helped me grow to value and love working to make life better for others.

Later in life, I designed and implemented humanitarian aid and development programs, as well as social and community projects. These programs and projects served all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, status or need. I was privileged to help hundreds of women in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to sustain their families as breadwinners. Many of these projects have grown and spread to other areas, positively impacting many lives.

Life has not always been easy. I have setbacks, obstacles, and even threats. However, I firmly believe that our community can be strong together if there is genuine love, understanding, gentleness, humility and patience.

Since my childhood, I have known that life is fragile, and peace is not a guarantee. I could have left the country of my roots, but I made the choice to stay and live out Jesus' commandment to love others as God has loved me.

## EPISTLE READING

The scripture theme this year comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."

## SILENT MEDITATION

Let us reflect now on the ways that God is moving us to bear together with others in love with 2-3 minutes of silent meditation.

## HYMN – I Urge You

I Urge You is a song that was composed especially for this World Day of Prayer service. Let us sing together, or listen to, this call to bear with each other in love.

I urge you to be patient with the calling you receive,  
Bearing one another with love and unity.

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "I Urge You". It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, and then a series of quarter notes: A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Above the staff, the chords C and G are indicated. The lyrics "I urge you to be pa-tient with the cal-ling you re - ceive," are written below the notes. The second staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a series of quarter notes: A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Above the staff, the chords F, C, G7, and C are indicated. The lyrics "Bea - ring one a - no - ther with love and u - ni - ty." are written below the notes.

## A STORY OF TRUTH TELLING

### Let us listen now to Lina's story.

On May 11, 2022, I lost my Aunt Shireen, a famous journalist who was killed in Jenin. For me, Aunt Shireen was like the branch of an olive tree, resisting the strong winds that threatened to erase the truth of Palestinian experience.

When Aunt Shireen died, Palestine lost an icon, a legend, and a famous Al Jazeera journalist. And yet, Shireen is all of the above and more. She was also my aunt, my godmother at baptism, and my best friend. Shireen has been my role model for as long as I can remember. She was also a role model to many young Palestinian women. Growing up, I aspired to be as successful, professional, and empathetic as her. I will cherish all the moments I spent with her talking about art, politics, and life, watching shows, going on vacations, and spending time with the family.

For 25 years, Aunt Shireen dedicated her life to telling the stories of Palestinian experience, and to being the voice of truth. She entered every house in Palestine and the Arab world through the TV screen. The day of her funeral was proof that she had also entered the hearts of Palestinians. The outpouring of solidarity we witnessed at her funeral will forever be ingrained in my memory and the collective memory of Palestine. We are forever grateful to the strong and courageous Palestinians who resisted the threats from Israeli forces and carried Shireen's casket on their shoulders.

Many people did not know that my aunt was a Palestinian Christian. Shireen's faith led her to bear with all in love, despite differences in faith traditions. She stood with all who were being harmed. She struggled for both Muslims and Christians to have access to the holy sites in Jerusalem. Her truth telling was even a way of bearing with the occupiers in love. Speaking the truth is a form of loving resistance, because it calls the oppressor back to their humanity.

Although Shireen, a branch of the olive tree, was cut down too soon, her legacy lives on. Her memory now nourishes the earth, from which we will gain strength to continue telling the truth and demanding justice.

### **HYMN – God who sets us on a journey (87 87 D)**

1. God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward stir the spirit, stretch the mind;  
love, for God and self and neighbour, marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,  
We regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.
4. When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent-pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge you are always at our side,  
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

*Joy Dine(1937-2001)*

*With permission Mervyn Dine*



## INTERCESSIONARY PRAYERS

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we now pray for women everywhere, for the world, and for those in need.

After each petition, you will hear me pray “Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.” **You are invited to respond, “Hear our prayer.”**

**Let us pray:**

**Leader:** God of Righteousness, bless us and make us witnesses of peace and justice. Open our eyes so that we can see things as you do. Protect us from all forms of violence, hurt and revenge. We pray especially for women who are denied education and other basic rights. We pray for women who are abused and suffer violence. We pray that our churches, as well as our governments, will create safe places for women. Help us to raise our voices and use our gifts and talents to help others.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Refugee God, who as a child had to flee a massacre in Bethlehem, you know the plight of refugees and the displaced. Remain with us and help us in these dark and difficult times. Guide and protect refugees and displaced people. Bring them to places of safety. Open the hearts of those receiving refugees and guide the actions of political leaders so that all needs will be met.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God our Rock, you have taught us to build our lives on you. We pray for those who are homeless. We pray especially with Palestinian families whose homes have been demolished or are threatened to be demolished by Israeli authorities. Bring these families justice and end this evil practice.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God of Peace, we pray for an end to the Israeli occupation and for a just solution to the ongoing oppression. We also pray for the city of Jerusalem, sacred to three religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. We pray for equality, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, and freedom of expression. Teach us as Christians to follow the way of Jesus, sharing love with all the inhabitants of the land.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer

**Leader:** Healer and Sustaining Spirit, we pray for all those who are sick, who are dying, and who are grieving. We pray for scientists and doctors who develop vaccines and treatments for the COVID-19 virus and other diseases. When we are lost and weary, strengthen us. Revive our dry branches, so that they yield good fruits again. Give us new life and the hope of the resurrection.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God of Mercy, we have carelessly destroyed your beautiful creation. We have harmed the environment, the flora and fauna, and the creatures of the air, land and water. Our destruction of the earth has caused the climate crisis. Help us to appreciate and love your creation. Help us to repair what we have destroyed.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God of Unity, your child, Jesus, prayed that your disciples and followers would be one, as you are one. Teach us, your servants, to treat others justly, fairly and with love, even though we may speak, live, and pray differently. Bless the global church and bless the faithful women everywhere who share your Good News with others.

**Lead us into a life worthy of our calling.**

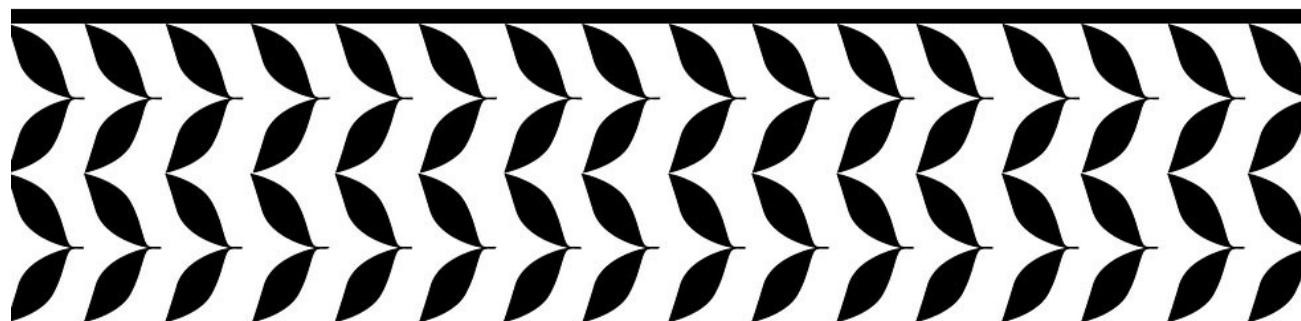
**All:** Hear our prayer

**Leader:** How can we thank you, Loving God? We know that all our blessings come from you. Do not keep us far from you. Give us grace according to the measure of Christ's gift and fill our hearts with joy.

We offer these prayers, and the prayers of our hearts known only to you, trusting that you hear and answer them.

In the name of God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

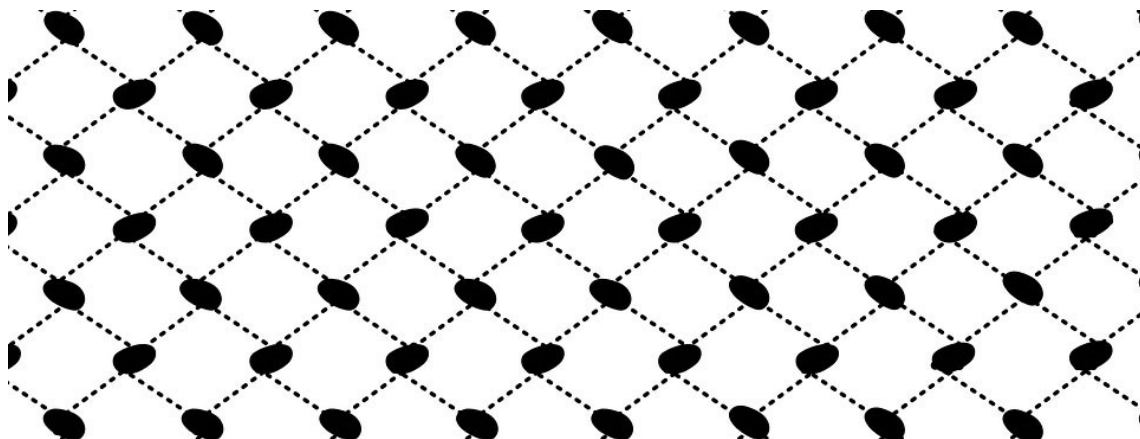


## THE LORD'S PRAYER – Our Father in Aramaic

We continue now with the prayer that Jesus taught us. The prayer is also in Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke. This prayer calls us to bear with one another in love through all the difficulties of life.

Our Creator who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done as it is in heaven.  
Our Creator who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done as it is in heaven.  
Give to us our daily bread.  
Give to us what we need.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Abwoon d'bwashmaya  
Nethqadash  
Shmakh Teytey,  
Malkuthakh Nehwey sebyanach.  
Aykanna d'bwashmaya,  
Aphb'arha.  
Habwlan lachma ,  
d'sunqanan yaomana.  
Washboqlan Khaubayn aykana daph  
Khnan shbwoqan l'khayyabayn.  
Wela tahlan l'nesyuna,  
Ela patzan minbisha.  
Metol dilakhie,  
Malkutha wahayla.  
Wateshbukhta l'lahm almin Ameyn.



## A STORY OF FLOURISHING

### Let us listen now to Sara's story.

Sometimes, I feel like the leaf on an olive tree, connected to the roots, blooming from within.

I was born and raised in Jerusalem as a Lutheran Christian. Life as a Palestinian woman surely has been, and still is challenging. I am glad that things are changing in society through my church by having ordained the first female pastor.

Throughout the years, I have seen and admired the persistence of Palestinians. My own family history is connected to our Palestinian history, which is the case for many. I want to share a story with you that shows what it means to be a Palestinian in our land.

My grandparents used to live in Jaffa. They grew up there before 1948, living alongside other Christians, Muslims and Jews. When the state of Israel was created in 1948, it was a catastrophe for Palestinians who had lived on the land for thousands of years. We call this catastrophe the Nakba. The Israeli forces came to my grandparents' home and kicked them out by force. This caused my grandparents to become refugees in Jordan.

Many years later, my grandparents came for a visit to Jerusalem and my parents took me and my sibling on a trip to Jaffa. They were excited to show us the home they used to live in. My grandpa told us stories about his childhood, and how he used to plant trees with his father. In fact, that's how we found the house! Everything had changed except for the trees, which helped us to identify the place.

Sadly, the people currently living in the house were hostile towards us. I was quite young, but I do remember them shouting and kicking us away from the house. It wasn't like we wanted to go into the house, we were just viewing it from the outside. My grandpa was trying to explain to them and telling them that this used to be his house. However, they refused to hear any part of it and chased us away. The feeling must have been even worse for my grandfather, being kicked out of his own house twice.

Later in time, when I visited my grandparents in Jordan, my grandma showed me the keys that her mom had kept when leaving their house. She kept the keys with the hope that one day they would be able to return to their home. Sadly, this is the case for many. Following the two Nakbas of 1948 and 1967, and even



until today, people are still being kicked out of their homes. Many have kept their keys with the hope of return, a hope that is passed on through many generations.

I know that the tree from where I came is strong and resilient. I am nourished by the love of my ancestors. I can bear with others in love because they did. Their love is what made me bloom as the leaf on an olive tree. Their love has helped me become strong and resilient.

## **OFFERING**

Today we have been blessed by the witness of Palestinian Christian women. These stories have shown us the power of bearing together in love.

We come now to a time of offering.

These words from 2 Corinthians call us to give so that all may experience abundance in life.

“For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. For I do not mean that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may also supply your need, in order that there may be equality. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

May we open our hearts and give generously.

## **HYMN: - Love is the touch of Intangible Joy (10 10 10 10)**

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
Love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
4. Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

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Music John L. Bell, copyright © 1998, 2002 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland  
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### **Let us pray.**

God, our cross is heavy, but together we are able to bear it. May this offering be a sign of our commitment to lead a life worthy of your calling. May it be a powerful instrument towards abundant life for all living things. **Amen.**

### **WORDS OF COMMITMENT**

**Leader:** Please join me in speaking aloud the commitment of your heart.

**All:** **May we commit to working for peace as we stand with all women, particularly those experiencing oppression, violence, or discrimination.**  
**May we be faithful advocates with decision makers working on all levels of society, including religious institutions.**  
**May we bear with one another in love until God's justice and peace reign throughout the whole world.**

**Leader:** Let us go now and be agents of peace and justice.

## **Commissioning Prayer (Optional)**

Pass a large lit candle from the table to a representative of next years host church and say the following prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the World Day of Prayer which is taking place throughout the world today, and has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

Many Christians gather together to praise you and we thank the Priest / Minister / Pastor and people of ..... For hosting this world-wide service of prayer in Scotland. With joy we pass this candle to ..... who represents ..... we will host next years service, prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands. Amen

### **HYMN: The Day Thou Gavest (98 98)**

1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended,  
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
2. We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.
3. As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.
4. The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

## BLESSING

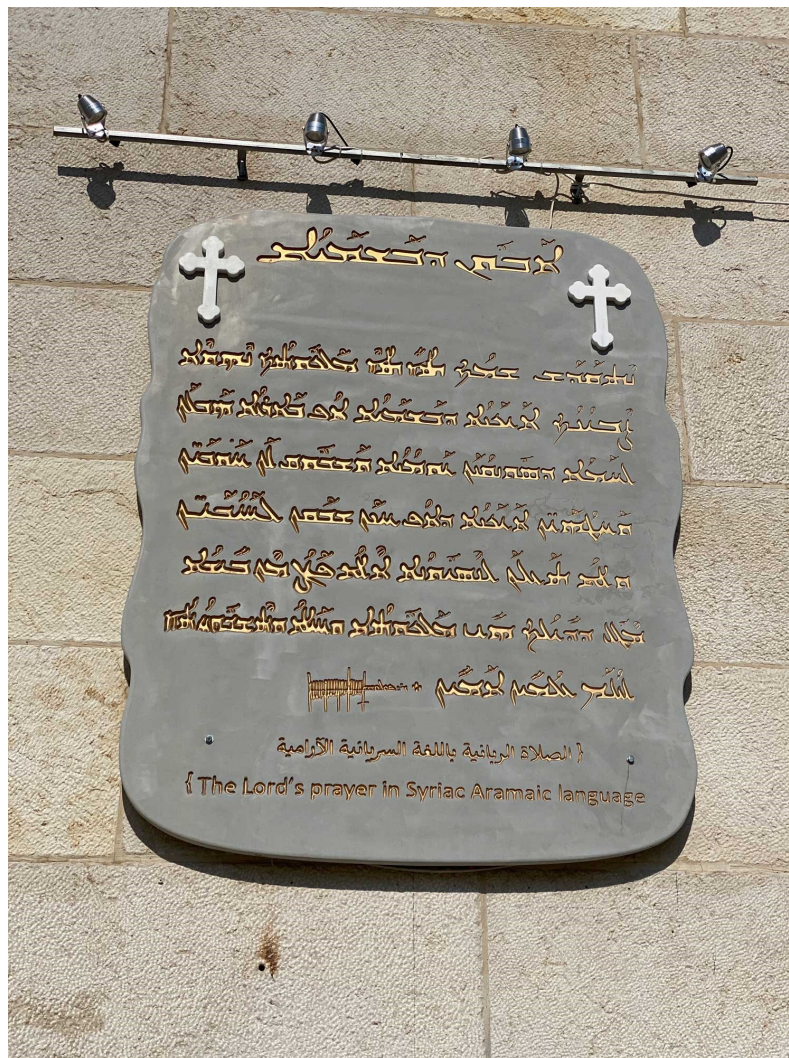
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord cause His face to shine upon you and grant you peace.

**Amen**

## Continue to Pray for:

- \* Peace and Justice in our world.
- \* Women of Palestine



**The Lord's Prayer**



## ARTWORK

Halima Aziz (b.1999 in Hagen, Germany) is a passionate Palestinian visual artist and design student based in Germany. She spent her childhood in Palestine. Halima had to experience the war in Gaza in 2008 and survived it. In 2009 she moved back to Germany.



This artwork is made in honour of the World Day of Prayer. Through her artwork, the artist represents three Palestinian women praying together in nature in a peaceful place. In her work, the artist has different motives and symbols that indicate the origin of these women and their cohesion.

Olive trees/ branches are a sign of everlasting and abundant life because they can live for thousands of years.



The golden roots are underlining the fact that the Palestinians will always exist and as they exist, they will always resist for their rights and freedom.

Poppy flowers are abundant and meaningful to Palestinians. They remind Palestinians of loved ones who have given their lives for their country.

Traditional Palestinian dresses like the tatreez (embroidery) thobe (dress) or the white scarf.

The keys are a symbol of the hope to return back to Palestine.



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# World Day of Prayer Movement

In 1910 more than 400 women met for the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh) bringing their experience and wisdom developed through years of ecumenical partnership in many countries. WDP was born. Today World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing together millions from over 100 countries to pray, worship and learn each year.

## **Through World Day of Prayer, people are encouraged:**

to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation

to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures

to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them

to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society

to affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world

## **Scottish Committee Mission Statement**

As representatives of the churches in Scotland, and members of a world-wide movement of Christian women, we work to promote prayerful living and worship for men, women and children, and to raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service.

We encourage ecumenical planning for World Day of Prayer services, facilitating them by preparing material supportive of the annual international theme and country. We generate resources in support of Christian literature distribution and projects giving practical help to people in the writing country.

More information can be found on our website [www.wdpScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk) and on our facebook page 'World Day of Prayer Scotland'.

**Friday 7th March 2025**

Service written by Christian women of the Cook Islands  
"I Made You Wonderful"

## Donations made in 2023

Scottish Bible Society	£ 10,000
Feed the Minds	£ 5,000
Charities of Taiwan	£ 10,000
International and European work of WDP	£ 1,600

For a full set of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, please contact the Treasurer, **Suzanne Foster**, or view on WDP ([www.wdpScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk)) or OSCR ([www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)).

## Plans for this year's funds

The principal aims of the WDP Scottish Committee are to promote the annual WDP service by producing and distributing materials; and to support societies giving physical or spiritual help to people in the writing country. By keeping our costs as low as possible, we can maximise the amount given.

***If you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your donation.*** You can get a declaration form from your service organiser or from the website.

### **Please give generously!**

**Offerings** must be paid into a bank, with the bank giro slip provided, by bank transfer to these Bank Details: Sort Code: 83-20-06: Account Number: 18873111: or by cheque (payable to WDP Scottish Committee) and sent to the WDP Treasurer, **Suzanne Foster**, by the end of April 2024 if at all possible.

There may be circumstances when the uplifting of an offering is not appropriate (some hospitals, residential homes or schools), but donations to cover the cost of materials are always welcome and can be sent at any time. Should a service be cancelled, a retiring collection uplifted in a church, or donations, would be most acceptable.

**The Committee would like to thank the many volunteers**

**up and down the country who help to organise and take part in services.**

**Your contributions cannot be measured. Thank you!**

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**COMMITTEE**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Elizabeth Blair (co-opt)     | Church of Scotland                       |
| Ann Bowie (co-opt)           | Church of Scotland                       |
| Alison Chalmers (co-opt)     | Religious Society of Friends             |
| Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh | Scottish Episcopal Church, Mothers Union |
| Nina Cryne                   | Union of Catholic Mothers                |
| Irene Houston                | Salvation Army                           |
| Kathryn Howe                 | Salvation Army Rep for Young Women       |
| Mary Kidd                    | Methodist Church                         |
| Elizabeth Mackay             | United Free Church                       |
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World Day of Prayer (Scottish Committee)

Charity Number SC020446

Website <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk>