

## Ecumenical and International links with useful worship and campaigning resources

### A Just Peace for Palestine:

[www.justpeaceforpalestine.org](http://www.justpeaceforpalestine.org)

**Amos Trust:** [www.amostrust.org](http://www.amostrust.org)

**Bible Lands:** [www.biblelands.org.uk](http://www.biblelands.org.uk)

**B'Tselem:** [www.btselem.org/english/Jerusalem](http://www.btselem.org/english/Jerusalem)

**Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions:**

[www.icahtuk.org](http://www.icahtuk.org)

**Rabbis for Human rights:** [www.rhr.org.il](http://www.rhr.org.il)

**The Forum for Discussion of Israel & Palestine:**

[www.fodip.org](http://www.fodip.org)

**USPG: Anglicans in World Mission:** [www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)

**YMCA:** [www.ej-ymca.org](http://www.ej-ymca.org)

### Partners in WWPPI/UK

**Baptist Union of Great Britain:**

[www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk)

**Christian Aid:** [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

**Church of Scotland:** [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in**

**Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)**

[www.quaker.org.uk/eappi](http://www.quaker.org.uk/eappi), [www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)

**Friends of Sabeel UK:** [www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk)

**Methodist Church:** [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

**Pax Christi UK:** [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

**United Reformed Church - Commitment for Life:**

[www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)

## A Prayer for Jerusalem

### God of Justice

Our thoughts are not your thoughts, but we sense your deep sadness that three world faiths struggle to sustain a hold on Jerusalem, your holy city. We feel your grief as discrimination and oppression are part of daily life for many citizens, and that Palestinian homes are being bulldozed in the Eastern suburbs. We pray that today's political conflict will give way to the transformation of Jerusalem, into a city where all people of good will are welcome.

### God of Peace

Our thoughts are not your thoughts, but we believe that you long for the day when fear and suspicion between faith communities gives way to mutual respect. We pray that wise negotiators will hear and feel the experience of loss in each culture, and that reparation will be made to those whose lives have been devastated in living memory. We pray that in the new Jerusalem, resources will be shared and the political future reshaped.

### God of Love

Our thoughts are not your thoughts, but we long for Jerusalem to be a place where every child is known to be a child of God, and where, like Jesus, they may grow up in wisdom and grace, and in the full knowledge of the God of Abraham.

Amen.

## World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel



29th May - 4th June 2011

Taking action for a just peace in the  
Holy Land

[www.worldweekforpeace.org](http://www.worldweekforpeace.org)

## Voices from Jerusalem

The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel is an initiative of the World Council of Churches that offers us all an opportunity to pray, learn more about how people's lives are affected and take action. It's time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace. What will you do this week ?



I come from Bethlehem and I work in Jerusalem. The journey to work used to take half an hour but now it takes two hours every morning. There are at least a thousand, sometimes two thousand people coming through here every morning. People come at two in the morning and sleep on cardboard so they can be near the front when the checkpoint opens at five.' **(Rasheed Mohammed, 35).**

For Jerusalem, I would like to be able to go back and forth and be at peace. I was always there, I used to buy clothes, eat, go around friends, come back at 10 or 11 o'clock. Where do I go now? **(A resident of Ramallah)**

### Learn more

Gather friends together to watch the new film 'Little Town of Bethlehem.' An inspiring true story of three men expected to be enemies, instead they strive to end the cycle of violence You can find it at <http://littletownofbethlehem.org>. Read Kairos Palestine.

We still hope Jerusalem is not a lost cause. I hope that we will have a Jerusalem without Occupation where people can be free and practice their lives. **(Palestinian Jerusalemite, Human Rights worker.)**



I belonged to the Anglican Church in Jerusalem and was a volunteer there. I arranged the flowers and was active with the women. Now I cannot go to Jerusalem; the Wall separates me from my church, from my life. All my life was in Jerusalem! I was there daily: I worked there in a school as a volunteer and all my friends lived there. They took our land and with that they took our lives but our roots are here. The Palestinians will stay. I feel as if the Wall is built on my heart. I feel very sad. They took our land and because of that they took our lives. **(Antoinette Kinesevich, living near Rachel's Tomb)**

I can't go to Israel, they can't come here. It's just not life. We have a saying, "What you like for yourself you like for everyone." **(Mahmoud, a Jerusalem taxi driver)**

The Church Leaders of Jerusalem call on the political leaders to search for a new vision. In this city, in which God chose to speak to humanity and to reconcile peoples with himself and among themselves, we raise our voices to say that the paths followed up till now, have not brought about peace for the city and have not reassured normal life for her inhabitants. Therefore they must be changed.

### Pray more

Why not use the 'Prayer for Jerusalem' overleaf to feel with God the pain of the city today. Put it in church magazines and use in individual and corporate worship as suits your style of worship. Look for more prayers and liturgies on the website.

Jerusalem is the heart of Christianity for more than 2000 years, and it is the city that Jesus sat and cried over fearing that this part of the world will never see peace. The precious tears of Jesus are still deeply planted in the hearts and souls of the minority Christian Palestinians living in Jerusalem despite all social, economic and political difficulties they face.

If you plan to get married and you fall in love with a partner who lives in the West Bank, then your suffering will start; because you would be unable to get this partner to live with you in Jerusalem due to the residence permit restriction imposed by the Israeli government in an attempt to minimize the number of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem. This has forced a lot of couples to leave and reside in the West Bank losing their residency rights in Jerusalem or leave the country and seek for a better joint life anywhere in the world where they are offered the right to stay. **(a Christian Palestinian living in East Jerusalem)**



Jerusalem is my home. In my home, I don't tolerate fighting and I encourage everyone to share. What don't some people understand about this? All my friends feel the way I do, but it will take a while to spread the word.

**Gila Svirsky** [www.gilasvirsky.com](http://www.gilasvirsky.com)

### Engage more

Use the websites overleaf to ask someone who has experienced the reality in Jerusalem/Bethlehem to share their knowledge at an event. Why not offer food from the region such as hummus and falafel and serve Palestinian olive oil and bread? Support the efforts of the Palestinian Initiative for Responsible Tourism.