

# “Dismantling Barriers”



## A Liturgy Resource Toolbox

*World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel*  
*18-24 September 2016*

*For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.*

*– Ephesians 2:14*

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations around the world to join together in 2016 for a week of advocacy and action in support of an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice shall unite during the week to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

The theme of the week in 2016, to be observed during 18-24 September, is: **”God has broken down the dividing walls”**

In social media, please use the hashtag **#DismantlingBarriers** to talk about this year’s World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel.

### Notes for worship leaders and planners

Thank you for taking the time to use this worship resource with your congregation, wherever you are in the world. We are aware that this liturgy for the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel is used in many countries, in many languages, by Christians of many traditions. For this reason, the liturgy team of PIEF has prepared this resource to be used in a variety of ways:

1. You may incorporate the liturgy into your regular weekly communion liturgy
2. You may use just a few portions of the liturgy (prayers, reflections, images) as you see fit, to best fit your context.

This year, we are providing a set of images which may be shown during the worship service, shared via social media, or used in another way which suits your context and needs. You have many options, but above all we hope that you will join us in prayer for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

2016 WWPPI Liturgy Team, March 2016:

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Revised by WCC Communications in September 2016.



# 1. GATHERING

## INVOCATION

We gather in the name of the One who has broken down the dividing wall, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## SUGGESTION FOR INVOCATION

In the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel we gather in the name of Jesus Christ who is our peace and has broken down the dividing wall that is the hostility between us.

We gather to remember those who are displaced and dispossessed as a result of an illegal occupation, and we pray for their hope in your love and and your justice.

We gather to remember all those who suffer under wars and conflict and to invite all people of good will to join in prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation.

We gather in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, longing with them for the time when nothing will separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG

Yarabba Ssalami (song of peace)

## OPENING PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we offer our prayers to our Heavenly Father, in the name of the One who is our hope, our strength, and our peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Holy God, holy and mighty:

We give thanks for our sisters and brothers in Christ from around the world who join their prayers with ours during this World Week for Peace. Let our common prayer for peace, justice, and equality be the force of love mighty enough to change the way we treat our neighbour and to bring down the Separation Wall.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and righteous:

Guide us by your Spirit, and keep us in the footsteps of your Son. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Guide our communities from hatred, from violence, from racism, from fear and despair.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and merciful:

Stay with us when our hearts become hardened, when our hope is dried up, when our faith is weak. In your mercy, renew a right spirit within us.



Strengthen all  
churches, that we may continue to shine the light of peace and  
reconciliation in all times.  
In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and living:  
Encourage the young people of the churches in the Holy Land, that  
they may see opportunities for life and a future in their homeland.  
Bless young people in struggling communities and let the power of the  
resurrection give them courage and hope to dwell in the light of the  
Resurrection.  
In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and powerful:  
Empower us to stand firm against every wall, every barrier, every policy,  
and every prejudice which divides and dehumanizes. Let your holy cross  
inspire the churches of the world to be bold witnesses to the love of  
Christ – the love which has already broken down the dividing wall, the  
hostility between us.  
In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and loving:  
As we begin this World Week for Peace, we offer our prayers for the  
sake of all God's children – Israeli and Palestinian, Jewish, Muslim, and  
Christian – in the fervent hope that a new day of peace is about to be  
born in the Holy Land. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
In your mercy, **hear our prayers. Amen**



## LITANY OF CONFESSION (optional)

Confident in God's saving grace through Jesus Christ, let us come before  
God in a spirit of confession.

*Silence for reflection.*

O God our Creator,  
You created the heavens and the earth  
**But humans act as if they own them.**

You gave abundant water and food for all  
**But humans hoard it for themselves.**

You breathed life into every human being  
**but some close their eyes to the sanctity of all human life.**

O God of mercy,  
**Free humanity from our sinful ways.**

Where walls have been built up  
**Teach us to build bridges of understanding.**

When hearts are hardened



**Open them to the sufferings of the neighbor.**

When we are oppressed  
**Preserve our dignity and give us peace.**

When we are the oppressor  
**Change our hearts and reform our ways.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Hear the Good News:

God who is full of grace and mercy has forgiven us all our sins. Through the Son, Jesus Christ, we have been given new life and new hope. Thanks be to God; Christ has broken down the dividing wall. He is our peace.

**Amen.**

### SONG

Kyrie eleison/Lord have mercy (Hosanna! 28)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

In great love you sent your Son, Jesus, to break down every dividing wall. Give us the strength and courage to dismantle the many barriers erected by human sin. During this World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, we especially pray for a change of heart for those who raise walls between people and the dismantling of the Israeli Separation Wall. Open the eyes of those who think walls of separation will bring peace and prosperity to the Holy Land. Open our hearts for the suffering of the other. And following in the footsteps of your Son Jesus and all the saints, open our hands to work for peace with justice for all the people of Palestine and Israel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 2. READINGS

PSALM

Psalm 146 *To be read responsively.*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

**who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

**Praise the Lord!**

## EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

Alleluja (Hosanna! 35)



## GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

The Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SONG

Uhibukka Rabbi Yasu (Hosanna! 43)



### 3. TESTIMONIES

#### FOR TWO VOICES: "WHEN THE WALL FALLS"

*These reflections are designed to be used in place of a sermon. Each testimony is answered by a poem. In your worship service, you may have these reflections and poems read by two voices in dialogue, or by many voices.*

*These testimonies are from interviews conducted in early 2016. Each person was asked: "What will it be like when the wall falls?"*

TESTIMONY: Bassam, age 56, Beit Jala

When I'm coming to work in Jerusalem, I have to leave very early in the morning in order to be on time. Mainly I'm facing many difficulties at the checkpoints, waiting many long hours. On a good day it takes one hour, sometimes two hours or more. This is to travel only 8- 10 kilometers (5-6 miles). Sometimes I am late, which affects my job.

I would like to bring my mother, who is over 80 years old, to pray in Jerusalem. She has not been in Jerusalem for more than 30 years. But unfortunately, her health will not allow her to withstand the situation in the line at the checkpoints.

Recently I needed to bring my wife to St. Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem, but she could not get permission (from the Israeli government). She only gets permission twice a year to visit Jerusalem.

Right now, my thirteen-year old son is training with his school for a race called "Right to Movement". On the day when his class was coming to Jerusalem to run, the soldiers wouldn't let him pass the checkpoint. Only him, no one else in his class, and for no reason.

I can still remember when there were no walls. It was easy for us to move freely, to visit people, to participate in worship in the churches, to visit relatives in Jerusalem or Nazareth. It was easy to keep these relationships. Now, we haven't seen our relatives in years.

POEM: "Defying the Universe" by Samah Sabawi

Are your loved ones trapped behind the wall  
Do they need the army's permission  
For their prayers to reach the sky  
For their love to cross the ocean  
And touch your thirsty heart  
Are your loved ones trapped  
Do you yearn to be in your family home  
And when you call them  
Do they always say  
"we are well, alhamdulillah"  
Does it surprise you  
That they are whole  
But you... you are broken  
Must they always worry about you  
Urge you to have faith in your exile  
Must they pity you  
For not breathing the air  
Of your ancestors' land  
Must they always comfort you  
Even when the bombs are falling  
Do you ever wonder who is walled in  
Is it you, or is it them  
And when it finally dawns upon you  
That their dignity sets them free  
Do you feel ashamed of your liberty  
Are your loved ones trapped behind the wall

Do they tell you stories  
Of how they survive  
The trees they've replanted  
The homes they've rebuilt  
Do they assure you life goes on  
Old men still fiddle with their prayer beads  
Mothers still bake mamoul on eid  
Families still gather under the canopies  
With loaded bunches of grapes  
Dangling above their heads  
They nibble on watermelon seeds  
They drink meramiah tea  
Women perfect the art of match-making  
Men talk of freedom and democracy  
Children climb on a sycamore tree  
Lovers woo in secrecy  
And no matter how the conditions are adverse  
Do your loved ones defy this universe  
Your loved ones defy this universe

*– Samah Sabawi is a writer playwright and poet. She was born in Gaza and is currently residing in Melbourne Australia.*

*Silence for reflection.*

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY: Tamara, age 37, Ramallah

Because I have a Jerusalem ID, it's easier for me to come and go than it is for friends with a West Bank ID. But I always have a problem at Qalandiya checkpoint. My work starts at 8 am, but I wake up at 5 am to be at the checkpoint at 6 am. Sometimes it takes even more than 2 hours to get through the checkpoint.

There are always problems. One day on my way to work a soldier shot the tear gas and it landed just beside my car. I go to work in the morning and I never know if I will be able to go home after work. If they close the checkpoint, I may have to stay in Jerusalem. I'm lucky because my parents live in Jerusalem, so I have a place to stay if this happens.

Another thing is if you walk through the checkpoint, they will take off your jacket and your boots to walk through the x-ray machine. This machine is not healthy for people! It's radiation, not good for people to have every day! Sometimes they will tell you to walk through the machine three or four times.

It's actually easier for me to go to Jordan than to Jerusalem.

What will it be like when the wall falls? Well, right now it's hard to even imagine it.

POEM: "Barriers" by Isobel de Gruchy

We live in a world of us and them,  
We are at ease with our own kind,  
Those who look like us,  
Talk the same language,  
Do the things we do,  
Think the thoughts we have,



And share our heritage and values.

But those others,

The ones different from us,

They want what we have,

They will destroy what we've built,

So we build barriers between them and us.

We construct a casing around us to keep them out.

Then we live as self-made prisoners,

Locked in to what was,

Becoming impoverished,

Stunted, blind, slowly dying,

Like the chrysalis of a butterfly

That thinks it's best inside,

And vows to stay there,

Not wanting to risk the unknown,

Nor accept change,

So convinced it is right.

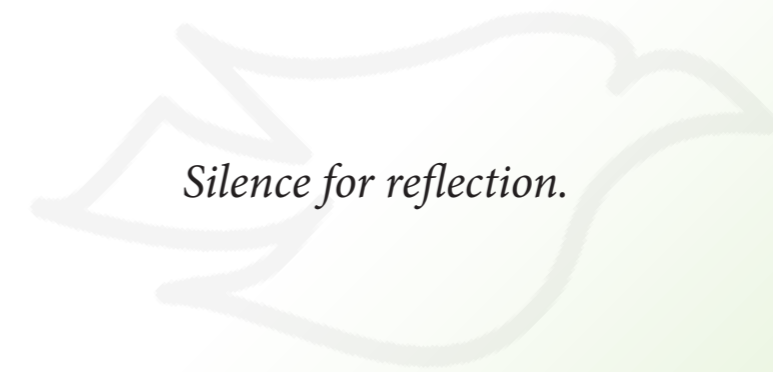
It's uncomfortable, it's hard,

We might get battered,

But there's a whole new world waiting out there,

Let's take the risk. Let's flex our wings and fly.

*– Isobel de Gruchy is a painter and poet. With her husband John, a priest, theologian, and writer, she lives at a retreat and conference center in South Africa and helps run its guest program. She wrote this poem 23/2/16 for this liturgy.*



Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY: Bassem, age 40, Beit Hanina neighborhood, Jerusalem

When the wall was built, it basically divided my neighborhood into two – not just two neighborhoods, but two states. Our side is residential, but on the other side is the Arab Bank, the mechanic where I used to fix my car, where we would do the grocery shopping, etc. Most importantly, we have friends and relatives on the other side of the wall. We used to see them every week, now it is very difficult. We can replace the bank, the shopping, the mechanic, but we cannot replace the family members.

Now, to visit our family, we have to go to Qalandiya and through a checkpoint, just to cross the street.

Getting there is easier – it might take just 45 minutes. But as soon as you get there, you are always thinking about getting home. You never know how much time it will take to get back. Last time, it took me more than three hours to return home.

My wife's grandmother lives in Ramallah, and she often wants to visit her. But to tell you the truth, I prefer to go to Nazareth, because I know it will always take 1.5 hours. Getting to Ramallah, which should be 10 minutes without the wall and the checkpoint, can take half a day.

It's not just the issue of the wall. The wall could be demolished but not the checkpoints – and that would be the same. It's all interrelated. It's

about the occupation as a whole. Maybe they will demolish the wall to save their international reputation, but will continue the other aspects of the occupation. Yes, it would be easier, but the wall is just a symptom. It's like when you have measles – you can't just cover the spots on your face and say you are fine. You are still sick.

POEM: "Carrying a whole nation of overweight" by Yusef Daher

Carrying my nation in a bag, my people on my back  
Travelling, speaking until the truth is fact  
Going from capital to another  
From a Church to the other  
A face I seek between the wind and my dream  
Your light...my shadow  
My way...you follow

Carrying my bag, I go on, with or without you  
and when I am there on my way, I hear you say  
Am I the only one there?  
Ohhh...You still feel that dear!  
You and some few are also in there  
In my heart, on my back, in my case  
And I am asked to pay for all that overweight

Carrying love, carrying peace, all I can get in there  
At a moment you left me there  
I have you, I love you and now hate to say good bye  
Slowly by space, by time, I disappear...will be gone  
Will take a piece of you, a small piece in me ...  
It will disappear by time by space; a small memory will stay...  
At least this way...I won't lose you again.....

– *Yusef Daher is a resident of East Jerusalem. He works for Daher Tours and for the Jerusalem Interchurch Centre in the Old City. He wrote this poem in 2010.*

*Silence for reflection.*

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY: Carlos and Isabella, 10 years old, Jerusalem

*Carlos:*

If one day there is no wall, I would feel more than happy. I will call all my friends and tell them the wall is gone!  
If there is no wall, all the Palestinians can come to Jerusalem, and go to the airport, too.  
If there is no wall, we could run from one side to the other. The world will be for everyone.

*Isabella:*

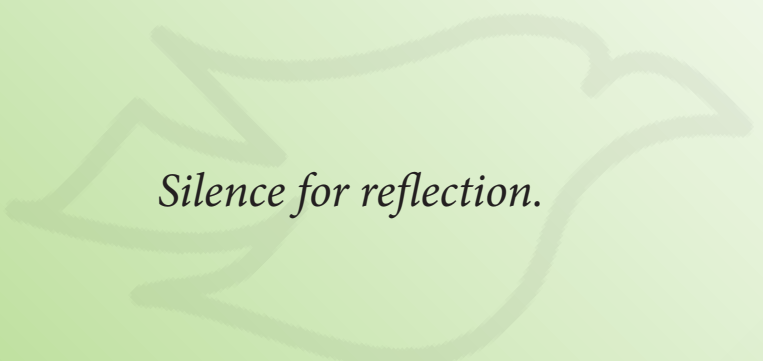
If there was no wall, I would tell children around the world that the wall fell down. Friends who had not seen each other for years could now meet. I and all the children of Palestine will be very proud of all the people who made the wall fall down.

POEM: "Refuse to Fall Down" by Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Refuse to fall down  
If you cannot refuse to fall down,  
refuse to stay down.  
If you cannot refuse to stay down,

lift your heart toward heaven,  
and like a hungry beggar,  
ask that it be filled.  
You may be pushed down.  
You may be kept from rising.  
But no one can keep you from lifting your heart  
toward heaven  
only you.  
It is in the middle of misery  
that so much becomes clear.  
The one who says nothing good  
came of this,  
is not yet listening.

– *Clarissa Pinkola Estés (born January 27, 1945) is an American poet,  
author and spoken word artist.*



*Silence for reflection.*

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has  
broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

SONG  
Peace must be dared (Hosanna! 53)

## 4. PRAYERS

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*These prayers were contributed from around the world by the March 2016  
Liturgy Team of the World Week for Peace.*

Confident that God hears and answers, let us pray for our neighbors, for  
the church across the world, for creation, and for peace with justice.

*Silence for reflection.*

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of the universe and all that  
fills it. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the richness of religious  
expressions, cultural forms, abundant nature, the gift of birds, animals,  
seas, hills. Thank you God for empowering humankind to exercise  
responsible stewardship over these your gifts.

We confess with regret that time and again we have violated your  
desire to live in harmony with your creation and the rest of the human  
community. Help us to be mindful that the earth, everything in it, and all  
who live in it, belongs to you. We have but momentary stewardship.

May there be justice for all, in which peace and reconciliation is built  
on egalitarianism, not on dominance, repudiation, fear and security. Let

love prevail now and ever.

*(from Ranjan Solomon, India)*

God of peace, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we praise you for the blessing of abundant life you have granted your church through Christ. Grant us unity, peace and true concord; the strength to share your grace with all people. In your mercy, restore, rebuild and reconcile us to you. Anchor us in the love of Christ; help us to remain committed to your mission. Grant us, dear Lord, Wisdom to heed the teachings of your word. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to seek your will in all we do. Help us to persevere and to remain faithful until the coming of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.

*(from Nonhlanhla Shezi, South Africa)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and Loving God, Creator of the universe and human beings,

You chose Palestine as the cradle of religions and showed us the way through the Incarnated Christ to do your will. Jesus Christ taught us the things that make for peace but some of your children, created in your image, still refuse to know how to love and respect each other in this land.

Heavenly Father, you who hears the cries of your people around the troubled world, look down upon the people of Palestine. Restore justice with mercy and wipe out the tears of the bereaved, the dispossessed, the homeless, the prisoners and the oppressed. Fill the hearts of all rulers with humility to recognize that your vision of a harmonious living in this land, your land, can be achieved only when all walls are destroyed, oppression and violence ended so that human beings can live in dignity.

Help us to humbly work together to make of Palestine, once again, a model of co-living among peoples of all faiths, so that the message of real peace that was proclaimed in this land will be experienced throughout the whole region as love that fulfills justice prevails.

*(from Nora Carmi, Palestine)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation and all peoples, we pray for the people of Israel. We pray for the peacemakers, for the seekers of justice, for the people of good will who risk friends, reputations, and even jobs to stand in solidarity with those on the other side of the wall. We pray for those who have lost friends and loved ones to violence. We pray for an equal measure of safety, of security, of opportunity and freedom for Israeli and Palestinian children alike, for in the beginning you made us all in your own image. We pray for the courage to continue working together with all of our neighbors toward a world of justice, peace, and equality.

*(from Carrie Smith, USA/Jerusalem)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

O God of all lands, we lift before you all communities and peoples who are stateless or alienated from their ancestral lands. We especially cry out to you to assist in the just struggle against powers and principalities that would limit or deny sovereignty to indigenous peoples in favor of settler-colonial theft.

Be with the peoples of Palestine, the First Nations of Canada, the



Aboriginal communities of what is now Australia, and the landless of Brasil, reminding them that you provide strength for the journey and homecoming after the exile.

*(from Robert Smith, USA/Jerusalem)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

With all people of faith, yearning for a just peace we call to you -

With our Jewish sisters and brothers, we call you Adonai - the Lord who is one.

With Jesus we say God, our Father, and seek for your Kingdom.

With our Muslim brothers and sisters, we say arRahman arRahim - God who is the most gracious, the most merciful.

We believe in a good creation, in this world as a home for all living beings. Yet many of us suffer, and we sometimes stay mute and helpless in the face of their struggles and pain. We pray for courage to be steadfast in our solidarity, so that we reach for each other, although we are tired and weary. We pray for creativity to make alliances with our sisters' and brothers' struggle for justice and peace.

We pray that we may find joy and fulfillment in our joint effort to make this world a home to all.

*(from Janneke Stegeman, the Netherlands)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**



Concluding prayer:

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 79)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(in your mother tongue, or you may use the transliterated Arabic version provided on the Resources page)*

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## 5. SENDING

A LITANY OF COMMITMENT TO FAITH in ACTION (optional)

Christ is our peace

And now we commit to sharing that peace with the world.

He is our peace

Therefore, we will be peacemakers: in our relationships, our families, our churches, and our communities.

He came to us in flesh, born in Bethlehem

Therefore, we will not forget the people of Bethlehem, and all who live in communities behind the wall today.

In Jerusalem, He showed us the way to the Kingdom of God

Therefore, we live in solidarity with all the people of Jerusalem, God's

children.

He has made both groups into one

Therefore, we will treat all humans with dignity, respect, and honor—  
Israeli, Palestinian, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, on both sides of the wall.

We refuse to be divided by hatred.

He came to reconcile all people with the father, and to reconcile  
humanity with itself. The walls forged by hatred cannot endure his love.

Therefore, we will insist that our governments, our lawmakers, and  
our churches advocate for peace and justice in the Holy Land and  
dismantling of the Israeli separation wall.

May the God Almighty who is sending us into the world to love our  
neighbour give us the wisdom, and courage to live in his will. In Jesus's  
name, Amen.

### SONG

Sithi Haleluya (Hosanna! 86)

### BLESSING

(A Gaelic blessing)

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, forever faithful and loving,  
You said that peace-makers would be blessed,

yet they are so often ignored or even attacked. Strengthen their hands,

Lord,

Give them your spirit that they may inspire others.

Help us, each one, to be peace-makers in whatever way we are able.

May peace begin to spread

like showers of refreshing rain, bringing blessings and growth.

May peace prevail throughout our hurting world. O Prince of Peace,  
come and reign. *Amen*

*(From Isobel de Gruchy, South Africa)*

### OPTIONAL CLOSING PRAYER

God, who led our forefathers  
and mothers to their promised land;

Help us,

as we enter into solidarity

with those who are our brothers and sisters

in faith and in humanity,

not to keep apart Palestinian and Israeli in our prayers,

but rather to try with you,

and under your guidance,

to find a way of holding the broken pieces,

that in our lives and through our prayers

some greater health

and some sign of wholesomeness might come,

and a glimpse of your kingdom appear in our hearts

and on this earth. Amen.

*For more information about the World Council of Churches' work in Solidarity with churches in  
the Middle East, please visit:*

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/churches-in-the-middle-east>