

Moderator's Prayer regarding the Palestinian people – April 2018

God of the dispossessed and the landless, we pray for the Palestinian people. We confess we grow tired of praying about the conflict in the Middle East, but we come to you again.

We mourn, God of comfort, the killing of 18 Palestinians in Gaza on Good Friday (Land Day) and another 29 killed more recently during the first days of the "Great March of Return." With concern we hear of the building of new Israeli settlements on contested land.

We feel increasing frustration, God of justice, that the equitable treatment of Palestinians remains an on-going point of contention. We are angered by the continuing blockade which keeps adequate food, water, medical aid, and educational materials out of Gaza.

You are, as Hagar named you, the God who sees. See, we pray the situation of the Palestinian people.

By the power of the Holy Spirit transform the hearts of Israeli government leaders, the security forces, and all who might choose violence, that olive branches replace bullets, and conversations towards peace replace the rhetoric of killing and war. End the killing, we pray.

Creator God who made all people, may human rights including equitable access to water, living free from ethnic discrimination, and the ability of children to receive an education, be the basis for renewed relationships between Palestinians and Israelis. End the blockade, we pray.

We pray for our Christian sisters and brothers, Orthodox and Protestant, Armenian and Catholic, Assyrian and Pentecostal, that they would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live as agents of peace and reconciliation in the midst of conflict and violence.

God who acts in ways beyond our imagining, bring a solution which exceeds anything human beings might think possible. A solution that reveals your gracious power and merciful justice, so that all the children of Abraham may live in the land in peace and with equity.

We pray these things through the name of Jesus Christ, whose coming reign will set all things right. Amen.

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143rd (2017) General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada