

Prayers for peace in the Middle East, prepared for distribution and reading during September 11 services. They are from the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East – USICPME@AOL.COM

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, Northshore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL
Sustain together in undiminished hope, O God of hope, those who continue to labor with undiminished determination to build peace in the land from which, of old, out of brokenness, violence and destruction, nevertheless hope emerged for so many of faith...bless all the spiritual seed of Abraham together with the light of your Presence. For in the light of your Presence we have found a way of justice and mercy and a vision of Peace. We praise you O God, Giver of Peace, who commands us to Peace. Amen.

The Reverend Said Ailabouni, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL
God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims, and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Amen.

Abdelwahab Hechiche, University of South Florida, Tampa, FLA
Almighty God! After almost a century of mistrust and fratricide, you inspired Jews, Christians, and Muslims to take the path of reconciliation in the Middle East...We ask for your forgiveness, O God, yet we find it hard to forgive our past enemies. May Your Words touch those who still stray in the wilderness of vengeful violence, forgetting your command to "forgive and overlook, till God accomplish His Purpose; for God hath power over all things." Amen.

Rabbi H. Rolando Matalon, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, NY, NY
O God Source of Live, Creator of Peace...Help Your children, anguished and confused, to understand the futility of hatred and violence and grant them the ability to stretch across political, religious and national boundaries so they may confront horror and fear by continuing together in the search for justice, peace and truth...With every fiber of our being we beg You, O God, to help us not fail nor falter. Amen.

Reverend John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
Lord God, we turn to you in these trying hours when conflict is a daily reality for our sisters and brothers in Israel and Palestine. We promise you to work to our utmost for peace and reconciliation in the region. But we know we cannot do it alone. We very much need the strength of your presence in our midst if we are to overcome the obstacles before us. So our prayer at this moment is that you add your support to our efforts, that you show yourself as a tower of strength in those moments when the barriers seem impassable. Together we can become beacons of hope for just and peaceful societies in the land so very dear to the peoples of your covenant. Amen.

Dawud Ahmad Assad, Council of Mosques, USA, NY, NY
In the Name of God, The Everlasting Merciful, The Cherisher of the Worlds and Worthy of all Praise, Our Lord: you have created us from a single (pair) of a male and a female and made us into Nations and Tribes that we may know one

another (not that we may despise each other) so help us to love each other and take the hatred and anger from our hearts so the People of the Book (Christians, Jews, and Muslims) in the Middle East may live in Peace and Justice. Amen.

Rabbi Sheila Weinburg, Jewish Community of Amherst, Amherst, MA

Two peoples, one land
Three faiths, one root
One earth, one mother,
One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny.
One broken heart,
One God.

We pray to you:

Grant us a vision of unity. May we see the many in the one and the one in the many. May you, Life of All the Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences, help us to see clearly. Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace. Amen.

The Reverends Harry and Judith Hoehler, First Parish (Unitarian-Universalist), Weston, MA

O God of peace, you have established Jerusalem as the Lord's House and a place of peace, and you have called on all who live there to love you and prosper. Instill in her inhabitants--Jews, Christians, and Muslims--a hunger for justice and dignity and a resolve to end the distrust that culminates in violence. Grant them the wisdom and patience to build a city where Israeli and Palestinian reside in safety, free from oppression, and committed to the good of all. In this endeavor, make everyone of us agents of your peace, O God, forgive us our indifference, and stamp out the prejudices that lead to hatred. Fill us with the reconciling spirit of your presence. So may we join people of good will--in the Middle East and throughout the world--who raise before Jerusalem's gates their insistent Shalom and Salaam: "Peace be within your walls...Peace be within you." Amen.

Miran Ashraf, New England Islamic Center, Sharon, MA

In the name of God, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful: Guide us on the straight way, the way of those whom thou has blessed. Help us so that we do not transgress the bounds of what is right and lawful. Take us out of deep darkness into light. Make us not bear burdens that we have no strength to bear. Help us bring about mutual affection and understanding between us. Grant us thy forgiveness and blessings, O Our Sustainer, for with Thee is all journey's end. Amen.