



**A National Service of Mourning
In remembrance of those who have died in
Palestine and Israel**



6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

**Calvary Baptist Church
755 8th St., N.W. Washington, DC 20001**

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Allyson Robinson
Transitional Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

Invocation

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

*Eternal God,
in whose perfect kingdom
no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness,
no strength known but the strength of love:
So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,
That all peoples may be gathered
under the banner of the Prince of Peace,
as children of one Father;
to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

From the Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN
Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

Hymn

This Is My Song

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Voices from the region

Read by Dannah Farah
Tarek Abuata, Christian Peacemaker Teams
Nora Burgan
Shelley Fudge, Coordinator
Jewish Voice for Peace -DC Metro

Lamentation

*Lamentations transcend the logic of reason, rational analysis, study and planning.
They pierce the crusty calluses of numbness, cynicism, indifference and denial.*

*Laments are cries of anguish and outrage, groans of deep pain and grief,
utterances of profound protest and righteous indignation over injustice, wails of
mourning and sorrow in the face of unbearable suffering. Laments name the
present pain, and forthrightly acknowledge that life and relationships have gone
terribly wrong.*

(From: 'Racial Justice and the Catholic Church' by Bryan N. Massingale, 2010, Orbis Books)

Led by Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN
Program Director, Pax Christi USA
Judy Coode
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

The response to each lamentation is the cry:

R: HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER

Let us join in a litany of lamentation:

- ~ How much longer do children of Gaza have to endure the ravages of war, trauma, terror, and confusion, wondering what they did to deserve such fear and dread? **R:**
- ~ How much longer do they have to endure the insecurity of homelessness, displacement, and the lack of basic elements of ordinary life such as water, electricity, medicine, and schooling? **R:**
- ~ How much longer do parents have to search through rubble to look for children they thought were safely in a shelter, in a school? **R:**
- ~ How much longer does a mother have to wail primal cries of anguish at the inhuman conditions of the blockade that are heaped upon her family? **R:**
- ~ How much longer does a father have to continue burying his children while being unable to grieve himself since there are more deaths and more children to lay to rest? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will children in Israel and Gaza seek shelter and wonder if their parents and loved ones will come home safely? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will whole families feel they must leave their home and the land they love to go searching for some place of peace where they and those they love can thrive? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will terror grip families, towns and nations, terror that is caused by violence and by structures and systems contributing to the oppression? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will the collective memory of a people no longer remember a quiet night during which to sleep? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will the stench of death, misery and bombs eclipse the beauty of creation? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will the expectation of heartbreak, suffering and death be a way of life for so many? **R:**
- ~ How much longer will it take for war zones to become peace zones of safety and wellbeing? **R:**

Prayer of Confession

Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, II

Director of Public Witness, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

(Unison) Lord, we confess to you our complicity in the suffering we lament this day. We confess our silence and our complacency. For our failures to speak and act, for our failures when we have spoken and acted, forgive us, Lord. Give us humble hearts to do bold work. (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Praise and thanks be to God.

Leader: Renewed in Christ, let us pursue justice and peace.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

Silence

Hymn

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

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Poem

I Come From There

By Mahmoud Darwish

Read in Arabic by Zeina Azzam

Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

and in English by Grace Said

Palestine Israel Advocacy Group

Washington National Cathedral Congregation

Offering of prayers

You are invited to come forward if you choose, placing a flower in the basket on the table and offering a silent prayer as you do so.

Spirituals

*There Is a Balm in Gilead
Bright Morning Stars*

Lena Seikaly

Scripture reading

Matthew 5:43-45

Read in Arabic by
The Very Rev. Joseph Rahal
Senior representative of the Antiochian Archdiocese in Washington, DC
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Read in English by
Scott Wright, Director,
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Voices from the region

Read by Mark Azzam Seikaly
Philip Farah
Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace
Eli S. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Director of Justice and Peace, Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Liana Smith
Member, Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro

Litany of Hope

*Our faith traditions instruct us to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
(Matthew 5:44)*

Where do we find it within us to pray in times of such turmoil? As a simple beginning, we match our Litany of Lamentation with a Litany of Hope, praying from the core of our beings that violence and hatred cease, especially in Israel and Palestine.

Led by Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach, Director
Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Washington Office
and Ghassan Tarazi
Alliance of Baptists & Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

Women:

When hatred dominates...
When we are seriously offended...
When conflict is rampant...
When error is entrenched...
When doubt paralyzes...
When distress weighs heavily...
When we are tempted to despair...
When sadness reigns...
When confronted by evil...
When our hearts are wrenched by injustice...

Men:

... may we announce by our lives the primacy of love.
... may we offer forgiveness.
... may we offer to build peace.
... may we proclaim truth.
... may we awaken faith.
... may we bring an air of healing.
... may our spirits be renewed in hope.
... may we find the gift of joy.
... may we proclaim that goodness is stronger.
... may we be steadfast in working to promote and proclaim peace with justice.

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Susan P. Wilder
Faith Forum on Middle East Policy

Greeting of Peace

R. Aura Kanegis
Director, Office of Public Policy and Advocacy
American Friends Service Committee

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Please greet your neighbor with the peace of Christ.

Hymn

To Be Your Presence

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Benediction

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Postlude

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A National Service of Mourning is sponsored by the following organizations:

Alliance of Baptists
American Friends Service Committee
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Church of the Brethren
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Moravian Church in America
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace
Pax Christi International
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society

With support from: Companion Diocese Committee for Jerusalem (Episcopal Diocese of Washington); Divine Word Missionaries JPIC Committee, Chicago Province; Episcopal Diocese of Washington; Episcopal Peace Fellowship; Episcopal Peace Fellowship – Palestine Israel Network; Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA); Friends of Sabeel – Colorado; Israel/Palestine Mission Network (PCUSA); Jewish Voice for Peace; Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro; Kairos USA; Palestine Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting; The Peace Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven CT; Puget Sound Chapter, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East; Quaker Palestine Israel Network; Sabeel DC Metro; Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East; United Methodist Kairos Response; Washington National Cathedral; Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

The service was coordinated by the Faith Forum on Middle East Policy, a network of national Christian denominations and organizations working for a just peace in the Middle East with a primary focus on Israel and Palestine.

The service organizers would like to thank Calvary Baptist Church and its staff including Rev. Allyson Robinson, Transitional Pastor, Dr. Cheryl Branham, Director of Music, and Paul Rosstead, Church Administrator.

Background

The latest figures from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs show that over 2,100 human beings have been killed during the latest war in Gaza. Almost 70 percent of them are civilians, with children in Gaza representing about 500 of the fatalities. There are also over ten thousand injured as well as almost half a million people displaced from their homes. Tens of thousands of houses and public structures, like schools and hospitals, have been destroyed or severely damaged. The devastating physical, psychological, and political ramifications of this violence will be with Palestinians and Israelis for generations to come.

We take this moment to express our support for those who have suffered and continue to experience pain, loss, and despair. As Christians from many denominations, we stand with our neighbors—Christians, Muslims, Jews, and those of all faiths—to remember and honor the dead and the suffering. We call on leaders from all sides, and on all concerned citizens, to pursue a lasting peace that is based on justice. Only a full embrace of human rights and the rule of law will engender peace with justice.

For the people of Gaza, this means a lifting of the seven-year land, air, and sea blockade that has deprived the population of basic necessities and severely limited their access to food, education, health care, building materials, employment, and much more. Returning to the status quo before the Israeli invasion of Gaza and the Hamas rockets fired on Israel is not tenable. The world must support not only a rebuilding of Gaza's infrastructure and its people's lives, but it must also ensure that Gaza's population enjoys the same fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

There are many Israelis and Palestinians who are working tirelessly for a peaceful resolution based on equality and justice—and not based on occupation or unequal power relations. We laud those efforts. And we join them and communities throughout the world to honor the victims of the war, to tell their families that we stand in solidarity with them, and to pray for serenity and grace in Israel and Palestine.

Charitable Organizations Providing Humanitarian Assistance for Gaza

ANERA <http://www.anera.org>

- Gaza emergency aid includes food, water, and dignity kits for women;

United Palestinian Appeal (UPA) <http://helpupa.org>

- Gaza emergency aid includes emergency medicines, food vouchers, hygiene kits, mattresses, pillows and blankets, emergency kitchen utensil kits for families, and emergency psychosocial services and counseling.

American Friends of UNRWA <http://www.unrwausa.org>

- Currently providing shelter to more than 200,000 beneficiaries in all five areas of the Gaza Strip; there are currently 90 designated emergency shelters.
- Trucks continue to distribute thousands of critically needed food, mattresses, hygiene kits, diapers, and water supplies to those displaced in UNRWA schools;
- Providing fuel to ensure that water pumping and electrical generators at hospitals and blood banks remain functional;
- Sanitation laborers continue to work in the refugee camps to keep the camps clean and prevent fast spreading diseases;
- Dedicated health staff are reporting to work at UNRWA's health clinics, providing primary care and psychosocial counseling to tens of thousands of individuals in need;
- Food distribution centers remain open, serving 830,000 hungry refugees, despite some centers suffering damages.

Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) <https://www.mecaforpeace.org>

- Distributing food, milk, and hygiene kits to displaced families;
- Buying medicine and medical supplies for hospitals and clinics in Gaza to treat the sick and injured free of charge;
- Organizing trainings and activities to meet children's ongoing psychological needs.

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) <http://www.afedj.org>

- Providing continued support to Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza.

Gaza Mental Health Foundation <http://www.gazamentalhealth.org>

- Supports the mental health work carried out by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, as well as Afaq Jadeeda's children's therapy program, "Let the Children Play and Heal" in Nusseirat refugee camp, founded by Dr. Mona El-Farra; and three women's empowerment groups: Aisha, Al Zahraa and Wefaq.

American Friends Service Committee <http://afsc.org/gaza>

- Meets immediate needs, whether it's a water tank to supply 12,000 people for seven days, or the simple gift of a fresh pair of underwear for women and children who have now gone more than a week without;
- Supports Palestinian young people, many of whom have worked with AFSC programs in the past, in locally led projects to help their communities heal and rebuild;
- Assists in the recovery after a cease-fire – from repairs to homes to support for community healing from the trauma of war.

Mennonite Central Committee <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/gaza-response>

- Provides food, bedding and other supplies to families in Gaza through local partner organizations.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) <http://www.iocc.org>

- IOCC staff are on the ground in Gaza, responding to the urgent needs of these displaced families and providing emergency relief such as food, water, bedding, blankets, hygiene items and infant supplies.

This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul - er of all na-tions:

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody is primarily composed of chords and dotted rhythms. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with the first line of music corresponding to the first three lines of text.

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.

The second system continues the melody from the first system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with the first line of music corresponding to the first three lines of text.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,

The third system continues the melody from the second system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with the first line of music corresponding to the first three lines of text.

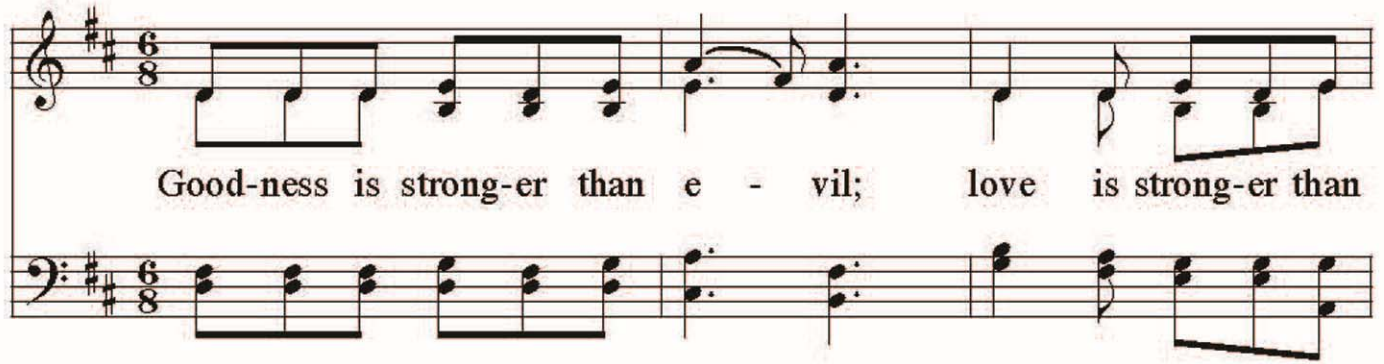
here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with the first line of music corresponding to the first three lines of text. The music ends with a final chord in the bass staff.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na - tions,
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil




Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than



hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;



life is strong-er than death. Vic-t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is



Oh, vic-t'ry is ours, ours through him who loved us. us.

1. 2.

vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us. us.

TO BE YOUR PRESENCE

Delores Dufner, OSB

ENGELBERG: Charles V. Stanford
(1852–1924)



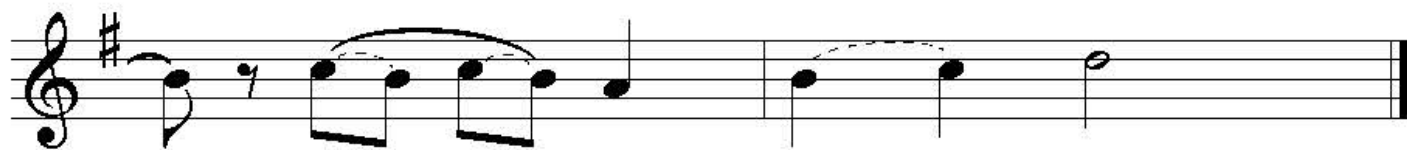
1. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here,
2. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold,
3. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest,
4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice;



to show Com - pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear,
to feed the poor and shel - ter home - less cold,
to speak for all the bro - ken and op - pressed,
to serve your peo - ple is our call and choice,



to be your heart of mer - cy ev - er near,
to be your hands of jus - tice, right up - hold,
to be your voice of hope, your love ex - pressed,
and in this mis - sion we, the Church, re - jice,



al - le - lu - ia!
**your heart of mer - cy, Christ!*
al - le - lu - ia!
your hands of jus - tice, Christ!
al - le - lu - ia!
your voice of hope, O Christ!
al - le - lu - ia!
to be your pres - ence here!

**During Lent*