



New Creation Churches

June 2021

Prayer Diary

Then He will judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor train anymore for war.

Isaiah 2:4

“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”- Psalm 122 V6.

Over the last few weeks, you will all have seen the widespread news coverage of the latest escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stark images of angry mayhem fuelling ferocious violence. The Holy Land once again is failing to live up to its name and the situation is and always has been heart-breaking, indeed this has been consistently described as the Worlds most intractable conflict. So many issues are wrapped up in this tinderbox that makes it so difficult to progress, let alone resolve.

Israel is the world’s only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestinians, the Arab population that hails from the land Israel now controls, refer to the territory as Palestine, and want to establish a state by that name on all or part of the same land. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is over who gets what land and how it’s controlled. The primary approach to solving the conflict today is a so-called “two-state solution” that would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the land to Israel. Though the two-state plan is clear in theory, the two sides are still deeply divided over how to make it work in practice. Eminent Politicians and statesmen over the years have tried to move the situation along and bring the two sides together, but no lasting peaceful solution has been found. The only thing guaranteed in this conflict is that the brunt of the hardship and suffering will be shouldered by the weak and vulnerable.

Many ask why the innocent suffer. Why doesn’t God intervene? What have they done to deserve this? There are no simple answers. We cannot know the mind of God. What we do know is that the Bible says God cares passionately about all of us. If a person is suffering it is *not* because God hates them. In the Bible Jesus dismisses the suggestion that a man was born blind because he or his parents had done something wrong. God hates suffering and injustice. He champions the poor and the outcasts. He calls on leaders to be just and fair. This call for justice should if nothing else prompt us to pray, no one benefits from the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. Israelis, Palestinians and the whole region need permanent solutions through peace and stability.

The most permanent solution will be found through prayerful listening to God, he knows the secrets of all our hearts and will be on the side of the weak, the poor and the vulnerable forever. Amen.

Bible Verses

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The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble are equipped with strength. 1 Samuel 2:4

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. Isaiah 60:18

ANSWERS TO PRAYER:

- Continue to give thanks for the gradual easing of lockdown opportunities to meet friends and family again

A reminder of what the Prayer Diary is about:

The prayer diary reminds us to pray each day for a person in the church, a street or organisation, and a diary event, and informs and directs our prayers, underpinning and supporting the day-to-day work of the churches in Banwell and Congresbury. The Diary is circulated to St Andrew's electoral roll in both Anglican churches and Congresbury Methodist members.

Please keep it in a handy place to use each day .

The aim is that once every five months every person in the churches, each village & church organisation / group & each village street will be prayed for. **If you have not yet been included (and wish to be) please contact Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126).**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

We would welcome any feedback and news of prayer answers / requests. Please contact the Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126) with your suggestions, answers to prayer, and any specific prayer requests. *Please could you get these to the Church Office by 20th June, Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Grace Isaac, Romany Poppitt-Price, Ian Stocker, Rosemary West

New Creation churches -Prayer During the Day

O Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 51.15, Ps 118.24)*

As we recall God's faithfulness we pray:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lam 3:22-23)*

The Word of God

*the psalm for today is in this month's Prayer Diary.
The Bible readings for today are in this month's Prayer Diary.*

Response *silence and a time for individual reflection*

Prayers

please use today's entry in the prayer diary to guide your intercessions

The New Creation Prayer:

Loving God, you are one-
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in peace.
Unite our two traditions and village communities into one body- your body, and sustain our rich diversity we pray.
We give you thanks for your commitment to your people of every age and place.
We ask for your help to fulfil our commitment to you and each other.
Grant us your peace , that we might grow in patience and humility,
and help us to leave behind all that might hinder our unity as we walk with you.
Enable us , by your Spirit , to work together in peace in a new way,
to love our neighbours as ourselves and to honour Christ as Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

The Conclusion

Bind unto yourself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity;
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
praise the Lord of your salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*(St Patricks breastplate prayer)
If you would like to join with others in saying daily prayer, please see Pew News for details for the coming month.*