

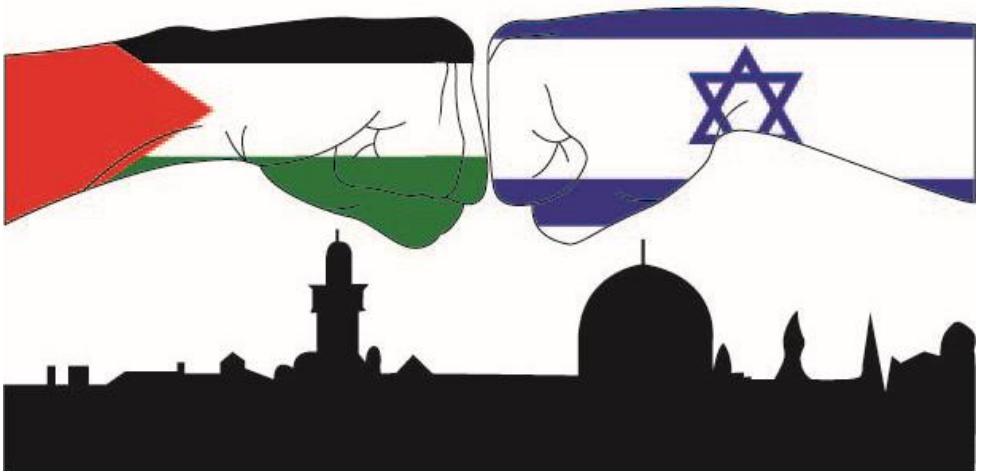
PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY GATHERING

21st February, 2024

Topic:

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

What are the facts?



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING

Welcome and Introduction

We light the peace lamp

(Esmond to speak about the peace lamp)

May this flame shine forth a light for peace.

**And may the warmth of its glow remind us
of the warmth of God's everlasting love.**

The candle is lit

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the lands of the Kurna people, the first inhabitants and custodians of this place from time beyond remembering.

**We pay our respects to their elders past and present, and
commit to working with them for justice for all indigenous
peoples.**

Acknowledgement of Diversity

We recognise our diversity, and in terms of the Uniting Church's Safe Church Policy, we acknowledge that this is a safe place in which all people can worship together, irrespective of race, creed, age, ability, sexuality, cultural background, or any other distinguishing feature.

CELEBRATING

Celebration of Life

One: We gather here to celebrate life's beauty and find healing for its pain, to wonder at the mystery that gave us birth, and to listen for the wisdom that guides us in the quietness of this moment.

We come and celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

All: Amen.

HYMN 'We stand in awe'

Suggested tune TIS 351 'Crucifer'

Refrain:

*We stand in awe; the mystery is supreme;
The cosmos sings aloud the sacred dream.*

Earth is our home; its wonders, so diverse,
Are constant in a changing universe.

Refrain:

*We stand in awe; the mystery is supreme;
The cosmos sings aloud the sacred dream.*

Eager engagement and each new re-birth
Bring constant refreshment to this vibrant earth.

Refrain:

*We stand in awe; the mystery is supreme;
The cosmos sings aloud the sacred dream.*

Constant renewal; promise in each seed;
For from each death new life will then proceed.

Refrain:

*We stand in awe; the mystery is supreme;
The cosmos sings aloud the sacred dream.*

We are accepted; in this dream we grow,
Forever thankful that it can be so.

Refrain:

*We stand in awe; the mystery is supreme;
The cosmos sings aloud the sacred dream.*

*George Stuart
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“Beatitudes of a Seeking Christian” By Kate Compston.

Blessed are those who ask difficult questions:

they are honouring their God-given brains.

Blessed are those who don't have glib answers:

they offer a refreshing change.

Blessed are those who are not afraid to say

‘I do not know for sure’ or ‘I could be wrong’:

their integrity will be rewarded.

Blessed are those who do not judge others

by their sexual orientation, gender or beliefs:

God will cherish their compassion.

Blessed are those who respect different ways of praising God:

gifts will be given to them.

Blessed are those whose coming to faith was gentle and unspectacular:

they are good to be with.

Blessed are those who listen quietly to others' hurts:

they will be known as sensitive friends.

Blessed are you who when awed by the Mystery of God,

can find few words to describe your highest experiences,

Blessed are you who so love your neighbour that you can be supportively alongside others

while they take different paths from yours.

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 145:8-13

*'No favoured nation' – every part of creation is special to God.
So, which nation has the right to occupy a given piece of land?*

⁸God is generous and just;

No part of creation gets special treatment.

God does not favour one creature over another,

But treats all with equal care.

⁹God's overflowing love pours out to all creatures great and small;

God cares for sand and for stars, for humus and humans.

¹⁰All your works witness to your wonders, O God.

In you everything works together for good.

¹¹They gather into a great glory;

They reveal the rightness of your rule.

¹²If only we could open our eyes, we could see how lions and lambs, herons and humans, each have a right to be here.

¹³**For your realm supersedes time and space;**

Boundaries and jurisdictions mean nothing to you.

Your presence permeates everything – from before the beginning to beyond the end.

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Everyday Psalms, Woodlake Publishing Inc.

EXPLORING

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3; Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 23:23

Presentation

Video: Rev Dr Roger Ray 'The Israeli and Palestinian conflict'

Discussion

1. What do you think is the 'take home' message of the video?
2. What do you think are the possible solutions to the conflict?

Hymn TiS TiS 607 'Make me a channel of your peace'

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love;

where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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AFFIRMING

LAMENT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT (Slides)

Song 'Let there be peace on earth'
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me;

let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God's love unchanging
then comrades we must be.
Let me walk with my comrade
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally
let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

Words And Music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson (Alt)
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SCATTERING

Parting Words

One: May the skies— heavens, galaxies, spaces between the
stars—
fill us with wonder.

**All: May clouds shade us, may the sun shine its warmth upon
us, and may we grow in grace and compassion, and envision a
bright future. Amen.**

The candle is extinguished

Notices