

Holy and merciful God, we watch with horror and fear as violence rages on a widening scale in the Middle East. We see the costs of war in startling clarity across the region: the loss of life, the destruction of communities, the spread of hunger and illness, the deepening of divides.

You call us, O God, to a different way. Your prophets declared that swords should be transformed into ploughshares. Your Son Jesus granted blessing on the peacemakers. Your apostles reminded us that we are one body, in which all parts suffer when any part suffers.

We confess our inability to learn the ways of peace. We acknowledge the ways in which we as a nation and a people are complicit in the very violence we abhor. We admit our growing despair.

Stir in us a hope that refuses to dim. Move us toward action that births hope and possibility among our siblings in the Middle East. Teach us the things that make for a true and lasting peace. And as we wait and work for that peace, grant solace and strength and unrelenting love to those facing the warring of nations and its bitter losses.

In the name of the Jesus who commanded us to love one another, we pray.
Amen.

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Acting Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries



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