

**PERSHORE ABBEY IONA PRAYERS for Palestine/Israel - 5pm 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
FOLLOWED BY A TALK BY IAN CAVE, ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIER IN THE WEST BANK**

**WELCOME and INTRODUCTION:**

**SONG:** 🎵

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell,  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace,  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
    All are welcome, all are welcome,  
    all are welcome in this place.  
Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard,  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed,  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
    All are welcome, all are welcome,  
    all are welcome in this place.

**OPENING RESPONSES:**

**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** bring peace through our words.  
**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** bring peace through our listening.  
**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** bring peace through our actions.  
**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** bring peace through our silence.  
**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** bring peace through our lives.  
**Leader:** Gather in our hearts Lord,  
**All:** we yearn for justice to be done,  
for creation to be free from threat,  
for the hungry to be fed, for captives to be released,  
for your kingdom of peace to come on earth. Amen

**SONG:** 🎵

1. We bring our yearnings Lord,  
of heart and soul and mind –  
to see the patterns you inspire  
restored to humankind.
2. We yearn to see a time  
when war and conflict cease,  
when turmoil fuelled by race and creed  
is overcome by peace.
3. We yearn to know a world  
where seeds of justice flower,  
where burdens made by human greed  
no longer wield their power.
4. We yearn to find the ground  
where none need stand alone,  
where all are welcomed, valued, loved,  
and know they've reached their home.
5. Lord take and use our lives,  
we offer them for this –  
that through our yearning and our prayer,  
the earth to peace commits.

**TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION:** *(There will be time to reflect on a variety of readings and images, or write thoughts and prayers on a dove-shaped piece of paper, whilst music plays.)*

**Leader:** Pray not for Arab or Jew,  
for Palestinian or Israeli,  
but pray rather for ourselves,  
that we might not divide them in our prayers  
but keep them both together in our hearts.

**AFFIRMATION:**

**All:** We believe that God is present, in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty, where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.  
We believe in a with-us God,  
who sits down in our midst, to share our humanity.  
We affirm a faith, that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.  
We commit ourselves to work for change, and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully, and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit,  
for God's new community of hope. Amen

**SONG:** 🎵

1. **Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord in the suffering, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase.**

*Chorus:*       **God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray,  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

2. **Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.**

3. **Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Lord for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause, of those who can't speak.**

**Leader:**       We have the freedom to join meetings, to open our minds and share our thoughts, and to listen to stories from people whose experiences are very different from ours. Tonight, we have the chance to hear from Ian, who volunteered as an Ecumenical Accompanier last year, living and walking with people in the West Bank.

We continue our worship in St Andrew's with refreshments and hearing Ian's experiences.

**Leader:**       For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,

**All:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**CREDITS:**

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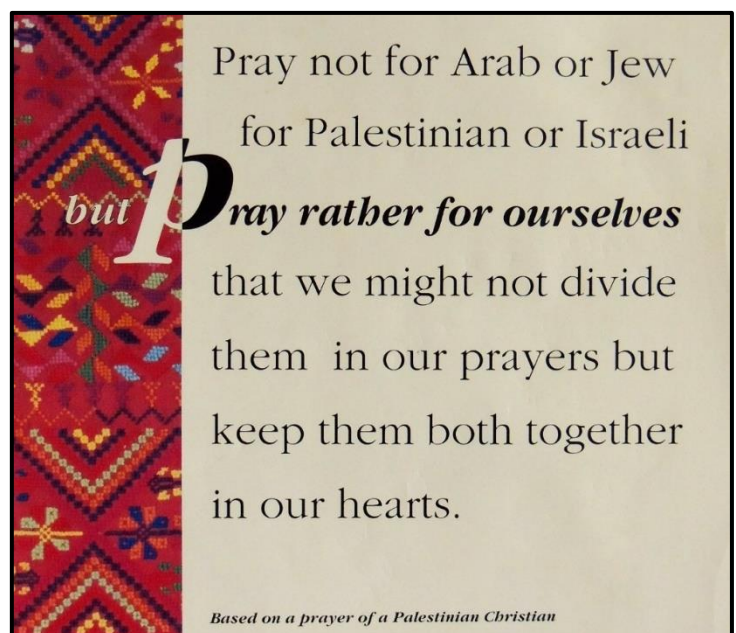
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*'The Shadow of the Dove' in 'Dawn's Ribbon of Glory'* © Kate McIlhagga

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**Next Pershore Abbey Iona  
service is at 5pm on Palm  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March.**



*A prayer by a Palestinian Christian, displayed in St. George's  
Anglican/Episcopal Cathedral, Jerusalem*

## THE SHADOW OF THE DOVE

When dawn's ribbon of glory  
around the world returns  
and the earth emerges from sleep

May the shadow of the dove be seen  
As she flies across moor and city.

Over the warm breast of the earth  
she skims,  
her shadow falling on  
the watcher in the tower,  
the refugee in the ditch,  
the weary soldier at the gate.

May the shadow of peace  
fall across the all-night sitting of a council  
across the tense negotiations  
around a table.

May the shadow of hope  
be cast across the bars of a hostage cell  
filling with momentary light  
rooms tense with conflict,  
bringing a sense of respite,  
a sliver of gold across the dark.

May she fly untiring  
across flooded fields,  
across a city divided by hate and fear,  
across a town wreathed in smoke.

May the shadow of reconciliation,  
the dove of peace  
with healing in her wings,  
we felt and seen and turned towards  
as she makes righteousness shine  
like the dawn,  
the justice of her cause  
like the noonday sun.

Holy Spirit of Love  
bring healing, bring peace.



<https://iona.org.uk/prayers-for-israel-palestine/>

*By Kate McIlhagga, from 'Dawn's Ribbon of Glory'*