



## CATHEDRALS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

*from the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf*

6.30pm, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85384200417?pwd=rVklT4FNdDhJVd01vbzautMpav3UIR.1>

Meeting ID: 853 8420 0417 Passcode: 772179

*First half of the Service is led by the Cathedral Church of St Christopher, Bahrain*

**OPENING CHANT: Yarabba ssalami (God of Peace)**

**Yarabba ssalami amter alayna ssalam,**

**Yarabba ssalami im la' qulubana ssalam.**

**Let your peace rain upon us, O Living God of Peace.**

**Let your peace rain upon us, Lord fill our hearts with your peace.**

**Welcome** by the Dean of St Christopher's

O God make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**LITANY FOR PEACE**

God the Father,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy on us.**

In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow,

**have mercy on us.**

In our despair at the violence that seems to fill the world,

**have mercy on us.**

In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes,

**have mercy on us.**

From the curse of war and its roots in human sin,

**O Lord, deliver us.**

From the urge for revenge

that adds to the cycle of violence,

**O Lord, deliver us.**

From the fear that grows into hatred  
for people who are different,

**O Lord, deliver us.**

From being too quick to attribute blame  
and demand retribution,

**O Lord, deliver us.**

From believing ourselves safe  
through anything other than your grace,

**O Lord, deliver us.**

For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For honesty in knowing and confessing the sin in our own hearts,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of all peace,  
have mercy on our broken and divided world,  
and on your people who cry out to you for healing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading 1: A Poem by Mosa Abu Toha,**

#### **“Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear”**

*(Toha is a Gazan poet. He was detained & beaten by Israeli forces in November 2023, while he and his family sought to evacuation from Gaza. He currently lives in Syracuse, new York.)*

i

When you open my ear, touch it  
gently.

My mother’s voice lingers somewhere inside.

Her voice is the echo that helps recover my equilibrium  
when I feel dizzy during my attentiveness.

You may encounter songs in Arabic,  
poems in English I recite to myself,  
or a song I chant to the chirping birds in our backyard.

When you stitch the cut, don't forget to put all these back in my ear.  
Put them back in order as you would do with books on your shelf.

ii

The drone's buzzing sound,  
the roar of an F-16,  
the screams of bombs falling on houses,  
on fields, and on bodies,  
of rockets flying away—  
rid my small ear canal of them all.

Spray the perfume of your smiles on the incision.  
Inject the song of life into my veins to wake me up.  
Gently beat the drum so my mind may dance with yours,  
my doctor, day and night.

**Reading 2: "From the place where we are right", by Yehuda Amichai**

*(Amichai was an Israeli poet and author who died in 2000. He was nominated several times for the Nobel Prize for Literature.)*

From the place where we are right  
flowers will never grow  
in the spring.  
The place where we are right  
is hard and trampled  
like a yard.  
But doubts and loves  
dig up the world  
like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
where the ruined  
house once stood.

## **Responsorial Psalm 85.8 – 13**

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
**to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
**righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
**and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

12 The Lord will give what is good,  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

13 Righteousness will go before him,  
**and will make a path for his steps.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **“Words of Peace from Arabia” – A Short Meditation by the Dean of St Christopher’s**

*“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” (James 3.17 – 18)*

## **The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)**

**Sung Refrain: Magnificat, Magnificat,  
anima mea Dominum.  
Magnificat, Magnificat,  
anima mea Dominum**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦  
from generation to generation.

**4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦  
and lifting up the lowly.

**6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦  
and sent the rich away empty.**

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦  
to remember his promise of mercy,

**8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Luke 1.46-55**

***All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.***

**Sung Refrain: Magnicat, Magnificat,  
anima mea Dominum.  
Magnificat, Magnificat,  
anima mea Dominum**

*Service continued by the Cathedral Church of St Paul, Nicosia, Cyprus*

**A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (5.43 – end)**

43 Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are

not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

### *Nunc dimittis*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;

3 Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel

*Luke 2.29-32*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

### **A Reading from a Cypriot context - Nora Nadjarian “Jasmine”**

#### *Visualising Peace in Cyprus*



*Artwork by Marios Diakourtis, April 2022*

She reached the line:  
the perfume, the white scent  
leading her. Jasmine.

It was her childhood again,  
visiting; like that small breath  
of flowers from another's garden

as she passed by, a child playing  
the fence railings like the harp.  
Come, come, the scent pulled her,

Always. But the garden was not hers,  
she was told. Nor was the aroma,  
which lured and dared her to trespass.

Now, as she crossed the unstraight,  
the invisible, the impenetrable line,  
and as the blue-bereted soldier

watched her feet closely, eye-measuring  
the millimetres, and as his mouth  
opened to call out HALT!

She was a child again, running, strong.  
HALT! they called but she didn't turn.  
Furious pages were missing in the book

of her life. And, breathless, she thought  
of the jasmine she was to find; the house  
she was to see; the garden; the fence;  
and her father's buried heart.

**"Words of Peace"** – A Sung Meditation 'Peace Perfect Peace'.

### **Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis.**

Now Lord, come to our aid. Grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say 'Never Again WAR'; With war everything is lost'. Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. **AMEN**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever,  
Amen.**

### **The BCP Collect**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people, pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

### **The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore, **AMEN.**