



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Feb 23rd, 2024

This prayer ministry enables local and international friends of Sabeel to pray over regional concerns on a weekly basis. Sent to Sabeel's network of supporters, the prayer is used in services around the world and during Sabeel's Thursday Communion service; as each community in its respective time zone lifts these concerns in prayer at noon every Thursday, this "wave of prayer" washes over the world.

Last week, Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. In the coming weeks, many Christians in the world will practice fasting, meditation, daily prayers, and scripture readings. During this Lent season, there are various initiatives which dedicate their meditation and reflection with Gaza in mind. One initiative out of many, is the "Struggle and Lament Series", organized by Friends of Sabeel North America, The Kairos Center, Freedom Church of the Poor, Black Christians for Palestine, Faith for Black Lives, and National Council of Churches, among other important organisations and movements.

- **Holy God, your perfect nature not only reveals our individual sins, but the sins present in structures and systems. During the season of Lent, help us, O Lord, to repent from our sins and turn the other way. Help us, with your Holy Spirit, reclaim holiness by ending oppression in all its forms and liberating all from the shackles of sin. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

In recent weeks, all eyes have been on Rafah and Nasser Hospital in Gaza. Mass displacement in Rafah continues as Israel's military increases its air raids and artillery fire. Many fear a ground operation on the southern city which was once designated a "safe zone." In Nasser hospital, people are being indiscriminately attacked by Israeli forces, both inside and outside the hospital and as they try to flee the facility.

- **God of life, as we witness so much death and brutality, we come before you with the words of the Psalmist, "O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest" (Psalm 22:2). Lord, while we have no control and are experiencing a sense of powerlessness, remind us that we can be witnesses. Let us bear witness to the fact that you breathe life, conquer death, and restore justice. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

On the 14th of February, at least 10 people, including six children, were killed by Israeli air strikes in villages across southern Lebanon. Furthermore, Iran launched attacks in Syria and Iraq after members of its elite forces were killed in Damascus allegedly in Israeli attacks, while the US, along with the United Kingdom, has carried out several attacks against the Houthis in Yemen. Experts warn that if an immediate ceasefire is not achieved, there will be further escalation and violence in the region.

- **God of peace, the empires, states, and militaries of the world legitimise themselves through violence and deceit. As we proclaim that you are the “Prince of Peace,” help us to be agents who work for an immediate ceasefire of bombs and lies in our region, especially in Gaza. Help us disrupt and end settler colonialism so that we can rejoice in peace and justice. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Last week, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Ibrahimi Mosque were both stormed by Israeli settlers and Israeli forces. These actions mark a deliberate political act intended to “Judaize” Holy sites and promote Jewish supremacy. Since the 7th of October, coverage on the abuse and restrictions Palestinians face in accessing Holy sites has been minimal, yet for the local communities, it is a daily reality.

- **Divine creator, the full extent of the suffering we are experiencing cannot be fully articulated and shown to the world. You alone see and hear all evil and good deeds. Protect us from all forms of supremacy and ensure that all Holy sites and rights of freedom of worship are respected. Lord, uproot the seeds of hate and replace it with seeds that will produce the fruit of love. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

On February 5th, Wadea’ E’layan, aged 14, was shot and killed by Israeli forces near the Israeli settlement of Ma’ale Adumim. According to Israeli sources, E’layan allegedly attempted to stab an Israeli soldier at the roundabout leading to Ma’ale Adumim when Israeli forces shot toward him. After falling from the first shots, an Israeli soldier shot at him again. Israeli forces later confiscated E’layan’s body.

- **God of justice, protect all the young people in our land as they face so much danger and uncertainty. Have mercy on the family of E’layan and comfort them as they mourn. We hold on to our faith that you do not abandon us in life or death. Lord, we ask you to intervene and stop the bloodshed which has been ongoing for over 75 years. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Several Palestinians who were detained in Gaza have recently been released. Many of them testify that they were beaten, tortured and humiliated while held in detention by Israeli forces. Some Palestinians who were detained have sustained severe physical and mental injuries. Israeli soldiers are facing increasing accusations of gross mistreatment of prisoners in violation of international law.

- **God of the captives, countless Palestinians have endured the suffering of Christ. You too were crucified and mocked by authorities and structures of power. Lord, provide healing through justice and liberation to all who are tortured and abused. Humble the arrogant who are foolish to think they can act cruelly with impunity. We remember that you are co-suffering with Palestinians who are tortured and humiliated. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayer for the countries of France, Germany, and Monaco. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**