



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Dec 19th, 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.

The Israeli occupation continues committing massacres every single day in Gaza and bombing supposed "safe zones." Just last Thursday, the Israeli occupation committed three horrific massacres, the largest of which was in the al-Nuseirat refugee camp.

- **Holy God, we cry out to you as massacres in Gaza erase entire families. Even "safe zones" bring no refuge, and the hungry are struck down while seeking bread. We grieve the loss of so many lives, each one a world unto themselves—precious and irreplaceable. Though we cannot name them all, you know their faces, their stories, their dreams. We remember your promise: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Be near to those who grieve, to the wounded, and to the weary. Intervene for the people of Gaza, oh Lord, and bring justice to the oppressed. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, Israel, which already illegally occupies the Golan Heights, recently seized Syria's Mount Hennon to extend its "buffer zone" after the fall of the Assad regime in Syria. Along with its continuous bombing in Gaza, Israeli forces have also continued air strikes in Syria and Lebanon.

- **God of all nations, you who love justice and defend the oppressed. As the Syrian people stand on the threshold of a new era, we include them in our prayers. We ask for an end to violence and peace for the country. We pray for all who suffer from occupation, war and oppression, that they may soon experience justice and peace. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Tensions in the West Bank continue to worsen. Last week, dozens of Palestinians have been detained by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. Raids were accompanied by assaults, threats against detainees and their families, and widespread destruction of homes and property.

- **God of the Oppressed, we cry out as our brothers and sisters continue suffering under the weight of oppression. Yet you, O Lord, are a God who sees, a God who acts. We ask you to shatter all systems of violence that defy your peace. In the face of destruction and unjust imprisonment, let the promise of freedom endure. Holy Spirit, strengthen the weary, uphold the imprisoned, and embolden the brokenhearted to hope. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Despite the suffering of our people, the Palestinian Christian community continues keeping hope alive in Palestine and Israel . This Advent season, Churches and Palestinian Christian institutions have been hosting several Christmas bazaars to support the community. Sabeel is also planning its annual ecumenical Christmas dinner, to be held this year on 21st December, 2024.

- **Emmanuel, God who is with us, we thank you for the light that shines through your living stones. Despite the trials they face, they continue to keep hope alive in the land of your birth. We lift up the churches and institutions that offer support and solidarity, and we ask for your blessings on the upcoming ecumenical Christmas dinner. May it be a moment of joy, unity, and shared faith. Strengthen the hearts of those who work tirelessly to bring hope to their communities. This Advent, may the peace of Christ reign in the hearts of all, and may the light of your love break through the darkness, guiding us toward justice and freedom. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Friends of Sabeel North America recently launched a campaign to connect congregations in the United States with Palestinian Christian detainees and their families. The campaign aims to personalize and humanize the reality of thousands of Palestinians detained in Israeli jails and prisons. Congregations in the pilot will be matched to a Christian Palestinian detainee and their family members with the goal of building relationships that can be sustained. More details on how to participate can be found on FOSNA's website.

- **God of justice and compassion, we lift up all Palestinian detainees and their families, who endure separation, suffering, and hardship. You see their pain, and you are near to the brokenhearted. We pray for the campaign launched by Friends of Sabeel North America, that it may build lasting connections of solidarity, love, and hope between congregations and those unjustly detained. May these relationships remind each detainee and their family that they are not forgotten, and that their struggle for justice is shared by a global community. Lord, may the power of your love and justice break through the walls of imprisonment and occupation. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Sabeel joins organizations in Palestine and around the world to endorse the 2025 “Call for a Global Feminist Strike for Palestine.” Together, we mobilize a global front demanding an immediate ceasefire, ending the apartheid and occupation of Palestine and the oppression of women.

- **God of Liberation, we remember the words of Mary in the Magnificat: “He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. “(Luke 1:52-53) Hear the cries of the oppressed and the marginalized, especially the women of Palestine, who bear the weight of suffering with strength and hope. We pray for their liberation, for the breaking of chains and the end of all forms of violence, patriarchy, oppression, and injustice. Like Mary, may we trust in your promise of freedom, knowing that you are at work in the world, even in the darkest times. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**
- **We pray with the World Council of Churches for the people of Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and mainland China
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**