

A Prayer for the crisis in Israel & Gaza

A Lectio 365 Special

It's Tuesday the 10th of October, and today we are pausing our usual rhythm of prayer to intercede for the escalating crisis in Israel and Gaza.*

Pause

And so, as I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly, to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Pause and pray

Prince of Peace, we cry out to You today for the people of Israel and Gaza; these very lands You know so well.

A prayer for those who are grieving

First, we pray with all our hearts for those grieving the sudden loss of loved ones, those who've been captured, and those whose homes have suddenly been destroyed.

*A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.*

Matthew 2:18 (NIVUK)

Pause and pray

A prayer for de-escalation

Lord, we also pray for a miraculous de-escalation of this dangerous conflict. Terrible things are being done, many hundreds have died, hospitals are overflowing, many are suddenly grieving. Violence is provoking violence but we pray for reason to prevail over rage and revenge. May those with a vested interest in escalating this crisis somehow be restrained.

*[Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!'
Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

Mark 4:39 (NIVUK)

Pause and pray

A prayer for peace

Finally, Lord, we pray for active and effective peacemaking at an international political level. May the measured voices of diplomacy constrain violence on every side.

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy..
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

Matthew 5:7,9 (NIVUK)

Pause and pray

Yielding Promise

And now, as I prepare to take this important time of prayer into the coming day, the Lord who loves me reassures me, saying:

When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed...

Mark 13:7 (NIVUK)

Closing Prayer

**Father, help me to live this day to the full,
being true to You, in every way.
Jesus, help me to give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love the lost,
proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.
Amen.**

**This devotional was originally posted on Friday 10 October 2023
on the Lectio 365 app.**

**These lands and these peoples have a special place in the heart and purposes of God, but they are also some of the most politically contentious and militarily dangerous places on earth. If you would like to add your own prayers with a more particular emphasis, we invite you to do so.*