

LITURGY RESOURCE

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

18-24 September 2016

“Dismantling Barriers”

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. – Ephesians 2:14



Wall art of the Israeli separation wall, at the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour, Palestine. Photo by Carrie Smith.



Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations around the world to join together in 2016 for a week of advocacy and action in support of an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice shall unite during the week to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

The theme of the week in 2016, to be observed during 18-24 September, is: **"God has broken down the dividing walls"**

In social media, please use the hashtag **#DismantlingBarriers** to talk about this year's World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel.

Notes for worship leaders and planners

Thank you for taking the time to use this worship resource with your congregation, wherever you are in the world. We are aware that this liturgy for the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel is used in many countries, in many languages, by Christians of many traditions. For this reason, the liturgy team of PIEF has prepared this resource to be used in a variety of ways:

1. You may use the liturgy as a whole, as a "stand-alone" service
2. You may incorporate the liturgy into your regular weekly communion liturgy
3. You may use just a few portions of the liturgy (prayers, reflections, images) as you see fit, to best fit your context.

This year, we are providing a set of images which may be shown during the worship service, shared via social media, or used in another way which suits your context and needs. You have many options, but above all we hope that you will join us in prayer for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

2016 WWPPI Liturgy Team:

Muna Mushawar (Palestine) and Robert Smith (USA), PIEF co-moderators

Carrie Smith (USA), Liturgy Team Coordinator

Ranjan Solomon (India), Carrie Smith (USA) Nora Carmi (Palestine), Nonhlanhla Shezi (South Africa), Felipe Butteli (Brazil), Janneke Stegeman (Netherlands)

2016 LITURGY: Dismantling Barriers

GATHERING

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of the One who has broken down the dividing wall, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we offer our prayers to our Heavenly Father, in the name of the One who is our hope, our strength, and our peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Holy God, holy and mighty:

We give thanks for our sisters and brothers in Christ from around the world who join their prayers with ours during this World Week for Peace. Let our common prayer for peace, justice, and equality be the force of love mighty enough to bring down the Separation Wall.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and righteous:

Guide us by your Spirit, and keep us in the footsteps of your Son. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from hatred, from violence, from racism, from despair.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and merciful:

Forgive us when our hearts become hardened, when our hope is dried up, when our faith is weak. In your mercy, renew a right spirit within us. Strengthen all

churches, that we may continue to shine the light of peace and reconciliation in these dark times.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and living:

Encourage the young people of the churches in the Holy Land, that they may see opportunities for life and a future in their homeland. Raise up young leaders in struggling communities. Let the power of the resurrection give them courage and hope to stay in the Land of the Resurrection.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Holy God, holy and powerful:

Empower us to stand firm against every wall, every barrier, every policy, and every prejudice which divides and dehumanizes. By the power of the cross, let the churches of the world be bold witnesses to the love of Christ – the love which has already broken down the dividing wall, the hostility between us.

In your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

As we begin this Week of Prayer for Peace, we offer this prayer for the sake of all God's children – Israeli and Palestinian, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian – in the fervent hope that a new day of peace is about to be born in the Holy Land. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LITANY OF CONFESSION (optional)

Confident in God's saving grace through Jesus Christ, let us come before God in a spirit of confession.

Silence for reflection.

O God our Creator,

You created the heavens and the earth

But humans act as if they own them.

You gave abundant water and food for all

But humans hoard it for themselves.

You breathed life into every human being

but some deny the sanctity of human life.

O God of mercy,

Free humanity from our sinful ways.

Where walls have been built up

Teach us to build bridges of understanding.

When hearts are hardened

Open them to the sufferings of the neighbor.

When we are oppressed

Preserve our dignity and give us courage to resist.

When we are the oppressor

Change our hearts and reform our ways.

Silence for reflection.

Hear the Good News:

God who is full of grace and mercy has forgiven us all our sins. Through the Son, Jesus Christ, we have been given new life and new hope. Thanks be to God, Christ has broken down the dividing wall. He is our peace. **Amen.**

SONG

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

In great love you sent your Son, Jesus, to break down every dividing wall. Give us the strength and courage to dismantle the many barriers erected by human sin. During this World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, we especially pray for the dismantling of the Israeli Separation Wall. Open the ears of those who need to hear the reality of the situation. Open the hearts of all to the suffering of the other. Open the eyes of those who have not recognized their own complicity. And then, following in the footsteps of your Son Jesus and all the saints, open our hands to work for peace with justice for all the people of Palestine and Israel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS

PSALM

Psalm 146 *To be read responsively.*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

EPISTLE:

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SONG: Sing a Gospel acclamation (“Alleluia”) appropriate to your context

GOSPEL:

Mark 16:1-8

The Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early

on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG(suggestion: If possible in your context, play the video "Oh Freedom" from the Resources page)

TESTIMONIES

FOR TWO VOICES: "WHEN THE WALL FALLS"

These reflections are designed to be used in place of a sermon. Each testimony is answered by a poem. In your worship service, you may have these reflections and poems read by two voices in dialogue, or by many voices.

These testimonies are from interviews conducted in early 2016. Each person was asked: "What will it be like when the wall falls?"

TESTIMONY 1: from Bassam, age 56, Beit Jala

When I'm coming to work in Jerusalem, I have to leave very early in the morning in order to be on time. Mainly I'm facing many difficulties at the checkpoints, waiting many long hours. On a good day it takes one hour, sometimes two hours

or more. This is to travel only 8- 10 kilometers (5-6 miles). Sometimes I am late, which affects my job.

I would like to bring my mother, who is over 80 years old, to pray in Jerusalem. She has not been in Jerusalem for more than 30 years. But unfortunately, her health will not allow her to withstand the situation in the line at the checkpoints.

Recently I needed to bring my wife to St. Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem, but she could not get permission (from the Israeli government). She only gets permission twice a year to visit Jerusalem.

Right now, my thirteen-year old son is training with his school for a race called "Right to Movement". On the day when his class was coming to Jerusalem to run, the soldiers wouldn't let him pass the checkpoint. Only him, no one else in his class, and for no reason.

I can still remember when there were no walls. It was easy for us to move freely, to visit people, to participate in worship in the churches, to visit relatives in Jerusalem or Nazareth. It was easy to keep these relationships. Now, we haven't seen our relatives in years.

POEM 1: "Defying the Universe" by Samah Sabawi

Are your loved ones trapped behind the wall

Do they need the army's permission

For their prayers to reach the sky

For their love to cross the ocean

And touch your thirsty heart

Are your loved ones trapped

Do you yearn to be in your family home

And when you call them

Do they always say

“we are well, alhamdolillah”
Does it surprise you
That they are whole
But you... you are broken
Must they always worry about you
Urge you to have faith in your exile
Must they pity you
For not breathing the air
Of your ancestors’ land
Must they always comfort you
Even when the bombs are falling
Do you ever wonder who is walled in
Is it you, or is it them
And when it finally dawns upon you
That their dignity sets them free
Do you feel ashamed of your liberty
Are your loved ones trapped behind the wall
Do they tell you stories
Of how they survive
The trees they’ve replanted
The homes they’ve rebuilt
Do they assure you life goes on
Old men still fiddle with their prayer beads
Mothers still bake mamoul on eid

Families still gather under the canopies
With loaded bunches of grapes
Dangling above their heads
They nibble on watermelon seeds
They drink meramiah tea
Women perfect the art of match-making
Men talk of freedom and democracy
Children climb on a sycamore tree
Lovers woo in secrecy
And no matter how the conditions are adverse
Do your loved ones defy this universe
Your loved ones defy this universe
– Samah Sabawi is a writer playwright and poet. She was born in Gaza and is currently residing in Melbourne Australia.

Silence for reflection

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY 2: from Tamara, age 37, Ramallah

Because I have a Jerusalem ID, it's easier for me to come and go than it is for friends with a West Bank ID. But I always have a problem at Qalandiya checkpoint. My work starts at 8 am, but I wake up at 5 am to be at the checkpoint at 6 am. Sometimes it takes even more than 2 hours to get through the checkpoint.

There are always problems. One day on my way to work a soldier shot the tear gas and it landed just beside my car. I go to work in the morning and I never know if I will be able to go home after work. If they close the checkpoint, I may have to stay in Jerusalem. I'm lucky because my parents live in Jerusalem, so I have a place to stay if this happens.

Another thing is if you walk through the checkpoint, they will take off your jacket and your boots to walk through the x-ray machine. This machine is not healthy for people! It's radiation, not good for people to have every day! Sometimes they will tell you to walk through the machine three or four times.

It's actually easier for me to go to Jordan than to Jerusalem.

What will it be like when the wall falls? Well, right now it's hard to even imagine it.

POEM 2: "Barriers" by Isobel de Gruchy

We live in a world of us and them,
We are at ease with our own kind,
Those who look like us,
Talk the same language,
Do the things we do,
Think the thoughts we have,
And share our heritage and values.
But those others,
The ones different from us,
They want what we have,
They will destroy what we've built,
So we build barriers between them and us.

We construct a casing around us to keep them out.

Then we live as self-made prisoners,
Locked in to what was,
Becoming impoverished,
Stunted, blind, slowly dying,
Like the chrysalis of a butterfly
That thinks it's best inside,
And vows to stay there,
Not wanting to risk the unknown,
Nor accept change,
So convinced it is right.

It's uncomfortable, it's hard,
We might get battered,
But there's a whole new world waiting out there,
Let's take the risk. Let's flex our wings and fly.

Isobel de Gruchy is a painter and poet. With her husband John, a priest, theologian, and writer, she lives at a retreat and conference center in South Africa and helps run its guest program. She wrote this poem 23/2/16 for this liturgy.

Silence for reflection

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY 3: from Bassem, age 40, Beit Hanina neighborhood, Jerusalem

When the wall was built, it basically divided my neighborhood into two – not just two neighborhoods, but two states. Our side is residential, but on the other side is the Arab Bank, the mechanic where I used to fix my car, where we would do the grocery shopping, etc. Most importantly, we have friends and relatives on the other side of the wall. We used to see them every week, now it is very difficult. We can replace the bank, the shopping, the mechanic, but we cannot replace the family members.

Now, to visit our family, we have to go to Qalandiya and through a checkpoint, just to cross the street.

Getting there is easier – it might take just 45 minutes. But as soon as you get there, you are always thinking about getting home. You never know how much time it will take to get back. Last time, it took me more than three hours to return home.

My wife's grandmother lives in Ramallah, and she often wants to visit her. But to tell you the truth, I prefer to go to Nazareth, because I know it will always take 1.5 hours. Getting to Ramallah, which should be 10 minutes without the wall and the checkpoint, can take half a day.

It's not just the issue of the wall. The wall could be demolished but not the checkpoints – and that would be the same. It's all interrelated. It's about the occupation as a whole. Maybe they will demolish the wall to save their international reputation, but will continue the other aspects of the occupation. Yes, it would be easier, but the wall is just a symptom. It's like when you have measles – you can't just cover the spots on your face and say you are fine. You are still sick.

POEM 3: "Carrying a whole nation of overweight" by Yusef Daher

Carrying my nation in a bag, my people on my back
Travelling, speaking until the truth is fact
Going from capital to another
From a Church to the other

A face I seek between the wind and my dream
Your light...my shadow
My way...you follow

Carrying my bag, I go on, with or without you
and when I am there on my way, I hear you say
Am I the only one there?
Ohhh...You still feel that dear!
You and some few are also in there
In my heart, on my back, in my case
And I am asked to pay for all that overweight

Carrying love, carrying peace, all I can get in there
At a moment you left me there
I have you, I love you and now hate to say good bye
Slowly by space, by time, I disappear...will be gone
Will take a piece of you, a small piece in me ...
It will disappear by time by space; a small memory will stay...
At least this way...I won't lose you again.....

Yusef Daher is a resident of East Jerusalem. He works for Daher Tours and for the Jerusalem Interchurch Centre in the Old City. He wrote this poem in 2010.

Silence for reflection

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

TESTIMONY 4: from Carlos and Isabella, 10 years old, Jerusalem

Carlos:

If one day there is no wall, I would feel more than happy. I will call all my friends and tell them the wall is gone!

If there is no wall, all the Palestinians can come to Jerusalem, and go to the airport, too.

If there is no wall, we could run from one side to the other. The world will be for everyone.

Isabella:

If there was no wall, I would tell children around the world that the wall fell down. Friends who had not seen each other for years could now meet. I and all the children of Palestine will be very proud of all the people who made the wall fall down.

POEM 4: "Refuse to Fall Down" by Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Refuse to fall down

If you cannot refuse to fall down,
refuse to stay down.

If you cannot refuse to stay down,
lift your heart toward heaven,
and like a hungry beggar,
ask that it be filled.

You may be pushed down.

You may be kept from rising.

But no one can keep you from lifting your heart
toward heaven
only you.

It is in the middle of misery
that so much becomes clear.

The one who says nothing good
came of this,
is not yet listening.

Clarissa Pinkola Estés (born January 27, 1945) is an American poet, author and spoken word artist.

Silence for reflection

Leader: For he is our peace;

Congregation: **in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These prayers were contributed from around the world by the 2016 Liturgy Team of the World Week for Peace.

Confident that God hears and answers, let us pray for our neighbors, for the church across the world, for creation, and for peace with justice.

Silence for reflection.

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of the universe and all that fills it. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the richness of religious expressions, cultural forms, abundant nature, the gift of birds, animals, seas, hills. Thank you God for empowering humankind to exercise responsible stewardship over these your gifts.

We confess with regret that time and again we have violated your desire to live in harmony with your creation and the rest of the human community. Help us to be

mindful that the earth, everything in it, and all who live in it, belongs to you. We have but momentary stewardship.

May there be justice for all, in which peace and reconciliation is built on egalitarianism, not on dominance, repudiation, fear and security. Let love prevail now and ever.*(from Ranjan Solomon, India)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we praise you for the blessing of abundant life you have granted your church through Christ. Grant us unity, peace and true concord; the strength to share your grace with all people. In your mercy, restore, rebuild and reconcile us to you. Anchor us in the love of Christ; help us to remain committed to your mission. Grant us, dear Lord, Wisdom to heed the teachings of your word. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to seek your will in all we do. Help us to persevere and to remain faithful until the coming of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.*(from Nonhlanhla Shezi, South Africa)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and Loving God, Creator of the universe and human beings,

You chose Palestine as the cradle of religions and showed us the way through the Incarnated Christ to do your will. Jesus Christ taught us the things that make for peace but some of your children, created in your image, still refuse to know how to love and respect each other in this land.

Heavenly Father, you who hears the cries of your people around the troubled world, look down upon the people of Palestine. Restore justice with mercy and wipe out the tears of the bereaved, the dispossessed, the homeless, the prisoners and the oppressed. Fill the hearts of all rulers with humility to recognize that your vision of a harmonious living in this land, your land, can be achieved only when all walls are destroyed, oppression and violence ended so that human beings can live in dignity.

Help us to humbly work together to make of Palestine, once again, a model of co-living among peoples of all faiths, so that the message of real peace that was proclaimed in this land will be experienced throughout the whole region as love that fulfills justice prevails. *(from Nora Carmi, Palestine)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation and all peoples, we pray for the people of Israel. We pray for the peacemakers, for the seekers of justice, for the people of good will who risk friends, reputations, and even jobs to stand in solidarity with those on the other side of the wall. We pray for those who have lost friends and loved ones to violence. We pray for an equal measure of safety, of security, of opportunity and freedom for Israeli and Palestinian children alike, for in the beginning you made us all in your own image. We pray for the courage to continue working together with all of our neighbors toward a world of justice, peace, and equality. *(from Carrie Smith, USA/Jerusalem)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

O God of all lands, we lift before you all communities and peoples who are stateless or alienated from their ancestral lands. We especially cry out to you to assist in the just struggle against powers and principalities that would limit or deny sovereignty to indigenous peoples in favor of settler-colonial theft.

Be with the peoples of Palestine, the First Nations of Canada, the Aboriginal communities of what is now Australia, and the landless of Brasil, reminding them that you provide strength for the journey and homecoming after the exile. *(from Robert Smith, USA/Jerusalem)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

With all people of faith, yearning for a just peace we call to you -

With our Jewish sisters and brothers, we call you Adonai - the Lord who is one.

With Jesus we say God, our Father, and seek for your Kingdom.

With our Muslim brothers and sisters, we say arRahman arRahim - God who is the most gracious, the most merciful.

We believe in a good creation, in this world as a home for all living beings. Yet many of us suffer, and we sometimes stay mute and helpless in the face of their struggles and pain. We pray for courage to be steadfast in our solidarity, so that we reach for each other, although we are tired and weary. We pray for creativity to make alliances with our sisters' and brothers' struggle for justice and peace.

We pray that we may find joy and fulfillment in our joint effort to make this world a home to all. *(from Janneke Stegeman, the Netherlands)*

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding prayer:

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 79)

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in your mother tongue, or you may use the transliterated Arabic version provided on the Resources page)*

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SENDING

A LITANY OF COMMITMENT TO FAITH in ACTION (optional)

This closing litany may be most appropriate for use by international churches who are participating in the World Week for Peace.

Christ is our peace

And now we commit to sharing that peace with the world.

He is our peace

Therefore we will be peacemakers: in our relationships, our families, our churches, and our communities.

He came to us in flesh, born in Bethlehem

Therefore we will not forget the people of Bethlehem, and all who live in communities behind the wall today.

He has made both groups into one

Therefore we will treat all humans with dignity, respect, and honor—Israeli, Palestinian, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, on both sides of the wall. We refuse to be divided by hatred.

He has broken down the dividing wall

Therefore we will insist that our governments, our lawmakers, and our churches advocate for the dismantling of the Israeli separation wall.

May the God who has given us the will to do these things, give us the strength and courage to perform them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, forever faithful and loving,
You said that peace-makers would be blessed,
yet they are so often ignored or even attacked.
Strengthen their hands, Lord,
Give them your spirit that they may inspire others.

Help us, each one, to be peace-makers
in whatever way we are able.
May peace begin to spread
like showers of refreshing rain,
bringing blessing and growth.
May peace come to all our hurting world.
O Prince of Peace, come and reign. *Amen*

(From Isobel de Gruchy, South Africa)

SONG

BLESSING

(A Gaelic blessing)

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OTHER WORSHIP RESOURCES

These resources may also be used in your community's celebration of the World Week for Peace in Palestine/Israel. These may also be used throughout the World Week for Peace, or throughout the year, as your community continues to pray.

1. The Lord's Prayer

Musical version, in Arabic:

<http://www.elcjh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/The-Lords-Prayer-Arabic.pdf>

To listen to this musical version:

<https://soundcloud.com/elcjh/the-lords-prayer-sung-in>

Transliterated Arabic version:

**abaana l-lathii fi s-samawaat, liyataqaddas ismuk, liyaa'tii
malakutuk, litakun mashii'atuk, kamaa fii s-samaa' kathalika 'ala l-
ard, khubzana kafaafanaa a'tina l-yawm, waghfer lanaa
thunuubanaa, kamaa naghfer nahnu 'aydan lil-muthnibiina 'ilaynaa,
wala tudkhelnaa fi tajreba, laaken najenaa mina sh-shiriir, li'anna
laka l-mulk wal-quwwa wal-majd 'ilaa l-'abad. amiin.**

The Lord's Prayer sung by Syrian singer Mrs. Manal Abdo, in Arabic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDXnwk8WjbU&feature=youtu.be>

2. Yarabba Ssalami (song of peace)

**Yarabba ssalami amter alayna ssalam,
Yarabba ssalami im la' qulubana ssalam**
(God of peace, rain peace upon us, fill our hearts with peace.)

**Yarabba ssalami amter alayna ssalam,
Yarabba ssalami im'nah biladana ssalam.**
(God of peace, rain peace upon us, give our land peace.)

Printable music: <http://www.elcjh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ya-arabba-ssalami-lyrics-and-music.pdf>

Listen to this song here: <https://soundcloud.com/elcjh/ya-arabba-ssalami-the-english>

3. Images of the wall

You are invited to play this short video of images of the separation wall, either as a background to the Reflection portion of the liturgy, or in place of one of the Songs.

“Oh, Freedom” <https://youtu.be/cLA-7v59qTI>

4. A prayer of liberation from Brazil

Written by Dr. Felipe Gustavo Koch Buttelli, professor at Centro Municipal Universitário de São José (USJ)

Dear God,

You walked among us and in every action you took in Jesus Christ you taught us about your sense of Just Peace. We know that our very nature is selfish, as Cain and Abel showed us. We do things in life in such a way that we merely preserve ourselves, our possessions, our own sense of security, our land, our wealthy way of living, our patterns of consumption, our political positions in order to rule and control others. At last, we have a sinful heart which constantly builds up barriers that set us apart from each other in so many aspects of our life.

We need You, God of mercy! We need your sense of justice and peace. You showed us that mercy overcomes the fulfillment of law and invited us to live out our lives in such a way that we do always more than what the law expects us to do, because of your love. Your love dismantles human barriers. Your love is just. Your love is peace. We are the disciples of love. A just love which impels us to break down all the barriers. Let us see all these barriers and deconstruct them with the strength of your love! The barriers created by the neoliberal economic

order, which demands from us to struggle among ourselves for wealth. The barriers created by a colonial pattern of international relations, in which some people, countries, and corporations use lobby and power to condemn others to death, poverty, suffering, and exclusion from decision making places. Help us to see and deconstruct the barriers created by a patriarchal order, which make us live in a world of gender violence, sexist prejudice, persecution and violence caused by hate on other sexual orientations. We create so many barriers which grow up strongly from our hearts. Let us remember all the peoples on the move, fleeing from different inhuman conditions and treated as people of less value, without a place to stay, a home to live in, a society in which to flourish as whole humans, loved by God. At last, we pray confidently that your love will dismantle the unjust wall, the barrier of hate and segregation which causes so much suffering to the Palestinian People. God of justice and peace! Destroy all these walls and barriers with your bright justice and with your overwhelming love! We are all the disciples of love. We are the daughters and sons of reconciliation...a just reconciliation. Amen.

5. More poetry and songs

- “Labor Pains” by Fadwa Touqan

Fadwa Touqan was born in Nablus in 1917 and died in 2003. She was well known for her representations of resistance to Israeli occupation in contemporary Arab poetry.

The wind blows the pollen in the night

Through ruins of fields and homes

Earth shines with love,

with the pain of giving birth,

but the conqueror wants us to believe

stories of submission and surrender.

O Arab Aurora!

Tell the usurper of the land
That childbirth is a force unknown to him,
the pain of a mother's body
That the scarred land
Inaugurates life
At the moment of dawn
When the rose of blood
Blooms on the wound

- Korea National Folk Song for Independence and Reunification

"Greetings from Korean land of Morning Calm! The political tension at the verge a military confrontation in my land is being intensified. I feel I know your situation of the walls divide and subjugate your people.

I am sending you a Korean song for your reference. This song is sung by our people, struggling for national independence from the colonial powers and for national reunification for peace, overcoming the political, military and violent division.

I pray that your people and mine can sing together joyful songs for the "Feast of Life."

This letter goes with my ardent prayers for peace in your land.

Prof. Yong-Bock Kim"

You can listen to the song here:

<https://soundcloud.com/carrie-smith-605407898/korean-peace-song>

Words:

Arirang Arirang Arario Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

When I go over this hill, there is my home; and yet why can I not go there?

Arirang Arirang Arario Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

When can I return to mountains and streams at home, resolving my HAN(*Deep Sense of Righteous indignation against injustice*) in my heart?

Arirang Arirang Arario Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

Ari Ari Suri Suri Aririo Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

It is Han not to see; and it is Villain that I can never forget; what can I do with my troubled heart?

Ari Ari Suri Suri Aririo Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

Passing a day, a month, and a year, still why cannot we meet our parents,

Ari Ari Suri Suri Aririo Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

Those who want to go away, let them go; those who want to come, let us welcome them;

Ari Ari Suri Suri Aririo Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

Wensoo, Wensoo, 38 line is the very Wensoo of mine.

Ari Ari Suri Suri Aririo Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

Arirang Arirang Arario Arirang Hill I Am Crossing Over;

- Kairos Palestine Song, sung by Ms. Manal Abdo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=IStkXO4eCks

- “We Teach Life, Sir” By Rafeef Ziadah

WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKucPh9xHtM>

TEXT:

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre.

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre that had to fit into sound-bites and word limits.

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre that had to fit into sound-bites and word limits filled enough with statistics to counter measured response.

And I perfected my English and I learned my UN resolutions.

But still, he asked me, Ms. Ziadah, don't you think that everything would be resolved if you would just stop teaching so much hatred to your children?

Pause.

I look inside of me for strength to be patient but patience is not at the tip of my tongue as the bombs drop over Gaza.

Patience has just escaped me.

Pause. Smile.

We teach life, sir.

Rafeef, remember to smile.

Pause.

We teach life, sir.

We Palestinians teach life after they have occupied the last sky.

We teach life after they have built their settlements and apartheid walls, after the last skies.

We teach life, sir.

But today, my body was a TV'd massacre made to fit into sound-bites and word limits.

And just give us a story, a human story.

You see, this is not political.

We just want to tell people about you and your people so give us a human story.

Don't mention that word "apartheid" and "occupation".

This is not political.

You have to help me as a journalist to help you tell your story which is not a political story.

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre.

How about you give us a story of a woman in Gaza who needs medication?

How about you?

Do you have enough bone-broken limbs to cover the sun?

Hand me over your dead and give me the list of their names in one thousand two hundred word limits.

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre that had to fit into sound-bites and word limits and move those that are desensitized to terrorist blood.

But they felt sorry.

They felt sorry for the cattle over Gaza.

So, I give them UN resolutions and statistics and we condemn and we deplore and we reject.

And these are not two equal sides: occupier and occupied.

And a hundred dead, two hundred dead, and a thousand dead.

And between that, war crime and massacre, I vent out words and smile “not exotic”, “not terrorist”.

And I recount, I recount a hundred dead, a thousand dead.

Is anyone out there?

Will anyone listen?

I wish I could wail over their bodies.

I wish I could just run barefoot in every refugee camp and hold every child, cover their ears so they wouldn't have to hear the sound of bombing for the rest of their life the way I do.

Today, my body was a TV'd massacre

And let me just tell you, there's nothing your UN resolutions have ever done about this.

And no sound-bite, no sound-bite I come up with, no matter how good my English gets, no sound-bite, no sound-bite, no sound-bite, no sound-bite will bring them back to life.

No sound-bite will fix this.

We teach life, sir.

We teach life, sir.

We Palestinians wake up every morning to teach the rest of the world life, sir.