



The Lighthouse

Special Edition Nov. 3, 2023

Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Northeast



Welcome to this Special Edition Prayers for Lewiston and the Holy Land

Our Clergywoman, The Rev. Kathi Jones has prepared prayers for our use regarding the recent tragedies in our midst.

Lewiston, Maine is within the bounds of our Synod. We mourn with them as they search for meaning in the senseless murders that have taken place there. While we may never fully understand the reason for such actions, we know that God is present to help us in those times when all we can do is cry out in pain to God and ask for comfort. And so, below is a prayer that may be used to help us as we look for comfort and then share support with our sisters who are living with such loss.

God of love and God of compassion, your people are in distress. We rely on your presence and care to sustain those who are in pain. We pray for your care for the people of Lewiston, Maine, as they mourn the loss of loved ones. We pray for peace and comfort for the community and, we pray for all whose lives are disrupted by inadequate mental health care and the scourge of gun violence.

You are God, the creator and giver of life. Your Christ came so that we may enjoy abundant life. Your Holy Spirit breathes life into our very beings. You surely weep when life is abruptly interrupted or ended. We come to you with this petition: that you sustain us, that you are gracious to us in such times of distress, and that you guide us as we seek to live in a way that reflects your will for a life of justice for all people and creation. Answer us in this call and hear our prayers, O God. Amen.

Our news is filled with the daily attacks in Palestine and Israel. Our call is to pray unceasingly for peace. The following prayer is offered for your use and reflection as the hatred and warring stance continues. May hardened hearts be softened and peace find roots in this land we call holy.

*O God of life and love and peace,
We witness the violence and injustice in your Holy Land
And our hearts break.
Our hearts break for the people of Israel—
For the victims of violent attacks by Hamas
For those who live with fear and insecurity
For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.
Our hearts break for Palestinians—
For the victims of violent attacks by the Israeli military
For those being denied water, electricity and medical care
For those who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.
We especially pray—
That weapons of war be laid down
That walls of separation be dismantled
That prisoners be released
That demonizing of “the other” cease
That political leaders seek the good of all people in Palestine and Israel.
O God, whose heart breaks for the world,
May your justice dwell in the land
May your righteousness abide
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace. Amen.*