

# Prayers for Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

 [churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world\\_mission/get\\_involved/prayers-for-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territories](http://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/get_involved/prayers-for-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territories)

We are joining with Christians around the world to pray for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month.

We pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month.

The Church of Scotland is joining this movement with Christian Aid and the Scottish Episcopal Church and in partnership with the worldwide ACT Alliance.

ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 130 churches and affiliated organisations working together in 140 countries to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalised people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality in keeping with the highest international codes and standards.



## Upcoming Dates:

- **January 24 2017, from 7 until 9pm in Orchardhill Church, Giffnock**  
*12 Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR*

You can organise an event for your congregation, for a small group of interested people or pray individually. Candles are available from the World Mission Council.

If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Carol Finlay, World Mission Council [cfinlay@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cfinlay@churchofscotland.org.uk) or Val Brown, Christian Aid, [VBrown@christian-aid.org](mailto:VBrown@christian-aid.org)

[Prayer vigil for the Middle East](#)

## A prayer for peace in the Middle East

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence. Guide the leaders of the people of the Middle East to know your will and to support a just peace for all of your children.

God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.

\*God of hope, we lift up the city of Jerusalem, distracted and divided, yet still filled with promise as all the cities of the world. Come again into our cities, places of worship, Upper Rooms and Gethsemanes, that we may be given sight to recognize you.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all our people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in you that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our

Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

## **A prayer for Christmas Eve**

God with us,  
as we wait for the dawning of Christmas Day,  
as our souls long for your presence among us,  
let us remember Bethlehem in the midst of our celebrations;  
still occupied, still a place of division and fear.

God with us,  
in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile;  
in the land of Christ's birth  
come to the hungry places, bringing hope,  
come to the dark places, bringing justice,  
come to the lonely places, bringing love.  
Come again in Bethlehem,  
come in us, and through us, and even despite us.  
That all may join the angels' song.  
Glory to God in the highest heaven.  
All hail, let there be joy.

[You can also download and print out the prayer for Christmas Eve.](#)