

Holy Land Pilgrimage Gathering November 28, 2023 – The Commons

Ways to donate financial help and/or stay informed:

- American Friends for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ): www.afedj.org
- Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB): www.jerusalempeacebuilders.org
- Episcopal Relief & Development's Middle East Fund: www.episcopalrelief.org
- Combatants for Peace (a grassroots movement of Palestinians and Israelis, working together to end the occupation and bring peace): www.afcfp.org
- Read & Pray
- Watch Bearing Witness (www.afedj.org/bearingwitness) individually or in your parish

Ways to advocate to elected officials:

- Episcopal Church Government Relations Action Alerts: eppn@episcopalchurch.org
or go to www.episcopalchurch.org and find Office of Government Relations
- Churches for Middle East Peace (30+ national church communions and organizations):
<https://cmep.org/event/cmep-briefing-hamas-and-israel-war/> for weekly briefing on
Thursdays 10:00-10:30 am ET

Other ways to support:

- St. George's College (Abraham's shop for Holy Land gifts, just steps away from St. George's College & a way to support a local vendor): www.stgeorgestore.com

Social Media:

- Archbishop Hosam Naoum's (The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem) Facebook page & follow
- St. George's College Jerusalem Facebook page & follow

Iona Abbey Worship Book: Evening Liturgy adapted

Opening responses

Leader: This is the time when light fades and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued—all as God intended.

All **Amen.**

Leader: This is the time when bodies relax, minds unwind, and tiredness comes—all as God intended.

All **Amen.**

Leader: This is the time when others greet the morning while we meet the night, and the world continues to sing, in all the accents of creation, a love-song to its Maker.

All **Blessed be God's name.**

Prayer

Leader: Come brother Jesus, be our guest, stay with us for the day is ending.
Bring to this place your poverty,

All **for then shall we be rich.**

Leader: Bring to this place your pain,

All **that in sharing it, we may also share your joy.**

Leader: Bring to this place your understanding of us,

All **that we may be freed to learn more of you.**

Leader: Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,

All **that we and all things might be made new.**

Leader: With friend, with stranger, with the unknown and the well-known ones, be among us tonight,

All **for the doors of this house are open, and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

Holy Scripture

Psalm 122 *Laetatus sum* (said in unison)

I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Leader: In the world many things happen at night: people travel, people meet, people have secret conversations, people lie awake restless, people sleep through exhaustion, people live in fear, people die.
And this has always been so; holy books bear witness to it. So let us hear a night story from the Bible.

Reader: A Reading from Luke (6:12-19).
Now during those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

All Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Night Prayer

Leader: What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night? Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.
Let us pray.
You never sleep, God. You are always awake, always watching, always willing the world and its people to turn in the right direction.

So tonight will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness or worry, or fear; or for reasons they cannot understand; or for reasons of war or inhumane treatment; or for loss of loved ones.

Pause for intentions to be added with silently or aloud.

All God be near them.
God be near them.

Leader: And tonight will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently for a birth, or a death, for a visit, or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

Pause for intentions to be added with silently or aloud.

God be near them.

All **God be near them.**

Leader: And tonight will you be close to those who wonder, who look for inspiration, who long to be with the one or the ones they love, who hope to recognize the right time when they can say "I'm sorry" or "I love you" or even "Enough is enough."

Pause for intentions to be added with silently or aloud.

God be near them.

All **God be near them.**

Leader: And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrows, discoveries or questions we will take with us into the night.

Pause for intentions to be added with silently or aloud.

God be near us.

All **God be near us.**

Leader: Into your hands we commit ourselves—our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures—for all things come from you and are best kept in your care.

All **Amen.**

Leader: Gracious God, your love knows no limits. Fill our hearts with your compassion, open our eyes to your presence in the world, enlarge our minds to understand your will. Take our hands and minister through them. Speak through our words and direct our feet in the path of peace, that Christ may be revealed in us and the world may believe.

The St. George's Cathedral Prayer

All **Amen.**

Closing Responses

Leader: For the day now done

All **thanks be to God.**

Leader: For the rest before us,

All **thanks be to God.**

Leader: Because God never sleeps so that we can,

All **thanks be to God.**

Leader: But before the day is done, let God's holy name be praised; and let God's people say Amen.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Worship Book published by Wild Goose Publications.