

March 13-19 First Week in Lent

“Blessed are the peacemakers...”

Matthew 5:1-12



Reflection

Blessed for qualities and actions that most societies consider useless or romantic, or co-opt and compromise to serve other ends, what a hardship and challenge it is to be among the people on this list. What are we doing for Israeli-Palestinian peace that gets us called blessed?

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

Research your congressional representatives' and senators' records on the Middle East and the peace process in preparation for a meeting with their office to express your concern for the people of the Holy Land. What qualities do your elected officials reflect through their records?

March 20-26 Second Week in Lent

“Love the Lord your God...”

Matthew 22:34-40



Reflection

Remembering why we do the work we do is crucial. It is easy to get snared in constantly changing news and nuanced policy positions. Relentless emails and meetings can overwhelm us. Yet we do the work we do because we love the Lord our God, and because when we do this work, we also show our love for our neighbor.

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

Visit your congressional representatives and senators to express your concern for peace, justice and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Tell him or her why you seek peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

For more information and ways to pursue peace and justice in the Holy Land visit www.cmep.org.

March 27-April 2 Third Week in Lent

“I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

Matthew 10:24-39



Reflection

Clearly we are dividable by religion and nationality, policy and strategic positions. Seeking peace can create barriers with people who desire status quo and people who desire different approaches to achieving peace. Even defining the conditions that constitute peace divides people. Yet while following Jesus may cause us separation from others, it does not mean it is permanent.

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

Consider the tools you wield to separate or distinguish yourself from others. How do you demonstrate that you see each person as a child of God even when disagreements about the meaning of justice and peace are not just theoretical but negatively affect people's daily lives?

April 3-9 Fourth Week in Lent

“In his name the nations will put their hope.”

Matthew 12:15-22



Reflection

Jesus and the Book of Isaiah - put them together and one often has the unimaginable made manifest. Justice without quarrel and the most tenuous existence maintained. How Jesus manifests hope is almost as miraculous as the hope itself. How justice arrives matters, and how we make peace matters.

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

For this week consider the tone of what you read regarding Israelis, Palestinians and this conflict in general. Are the tones such that cannot be identified as quarreling? Are they tones that echo Jesus' call for justice? Should your reading list be changed?

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April 10-16 Fifth Week in Lent

“...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”

Matthew 5:38-48

Reflection

We all get God's goodness whether we deserve it or not and sometimes that seems like a problem. God loves all of us and does whatever is possible to help friend and foe alike. To the glory of God, love and pray for those who oppose us, not that they should come around to our side, but that they and we will always come around to God's side.

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

Make a list of your top three “enemies,” the people that really make your blood boil when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each day pray for them by name saying you love them (yes, love them) and praying that they will always know God's love.



April 17-23 Holy Week

“...the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.”

Matthew 23:23-24

Reflection

This scripture appears in a list of chastisements against people with authority or status who would call for others to do what they themselves choose not to do. Jesus disdains hypocrites. Missing the point of the good news is one thing, but leading others down that same path incurs God's judgment.

Prayer

O God, I pray for peace, justice, and mercy for all the people of the Holy Land. Through my words, actions and thoughts make me an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Action

Consider when you have missed the point of the Gospel by dwelling on minutia or allowing yourself to get sidetracked in order to avoid the consequences of attending to the most important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. How do you stay on track, and help others do the same?

