

# 2012 Lenten Reflections



With so many witnesses in a great cloud all around us, we too, then, should throw off everything that weighs us down and the sin that clings so closely, and with perseverance keep running in the race which lies ahead of us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne.

- Hebrews 12:1-2  
New Jerusalem Bible

There have been a lot of questions raised lately about people who identify themselves as Palestinian. Less public attention and awareness has been given to the indigenous Christian community whose families and institutions have deep roots in the land where Jesus was born, lived and died.

As we enter this time of intentional reflection of our own faith journeys CMEP has invited Palestinian Christians with diversity of views and from many faith traditions to write their reflections on Hebrews 12:1-2.

This year's reflections are intended to demonstrate the breadth of opinion among Palestinian Christians and to raise U.S. Christian awareness of this strong and vital community of brothers and sisters. The views of these authors do not necessarily represent the views of CMEP or its member institutions. Inclusion of a reflection does not constitute endorsement.

CMEP would like to know your response to this year's Lent reflections and how you used it personally or corporately to engage your congregation more deeply in the work for peace in the Holy Land. Send any comments, ideas or feedback to Doris Warrell at [Doris@CMEP.org](mailto:Doris@CMEP.org). You may also share your comments, own reflections or seasonal photos at [www.facebook.com/churchesmep](http://www.facebook.com/churchesmep).

There are hundreds of ways for you to help your own community increase their understanding of the Palestinian Christian community. Here are a few ideas:

- Offer prayers for peace through justice during the prayers of the people or ask your pastor, priest or leader to add this to your church's prayers;
- Put an article about peace in the Holy Land in your congregation's newsletter or website;
- Put a notice in the bulletin or church's email list about the availability of these reflections;
- Read these reflections and pray for guidance and perseverance for our work together.

As together we wait in remembrance of all that God has done for us, may we also hear new voices from our Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land, members of the great cloud of witnesses.

- Rev. Doris Warrell, CMEP Field Director