

God of love and mercy, our hearts are weary as we live through war and civil unrest. We are witnesses to the lack of compassion exhibited as human lives are expended in a misguided quest for justice. We wonder at the silence echoing beyond the sounds of bombs and gunfire, the silence of complicity in these crimes against humanity. We wonder how love can be absent when we are one people, created in your image. God of mercy, fill us with your love, love that pushes us beyond our fears to care for each other and to demand peace with justice for your people in the Middle East.

Creator of Heaven and Earth, we want to see a just world for all. We are connected to each other. The pain of our siblings is our pain, their losses bring us pain, we want their suffering to end. We want safety for these, your people. We want the children to live the freedom and innocence of childhood, unmarred and unscarred by the diminishment of their humanity and the violence of war. Help us to be co-creators with you, providing the food and shelter they need to get through the living of these war-torn days.

God of hope and compassion, our siblings are suffering as war and rumors of war threaten to overtake them. Their lives are torn apart by war and their grief is evident. Hear our collective cries, O God. Our tears are not enough to express the pain from the loss of lives and livelihood, from the destruction and fear caused by bombs and guns used with no regard for the lives of your children. Provide your comfort and peace to persevere through these times of trouble.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ



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