

A Prayer for the People of the Holy Land

offered by the Archbishop of Canterbury

God of compassion and justice,

We cry out to you for all who suffer
in the Holy Land today.

For your precious children, Israelis
and Palestinians,
Traumatized and in fear for their lives;
Lord, Have mercy.

For the families of the bereaved,
For those who have seen images they
will never forget,
For those anxiously waiting for news,
despairing with each passing day;
Lord, Have mercy.

For young men and women,
heading into combat,
bearing the burden of what others
have done and what they will be
asked to do;
Lord, have mercy.

For civilians in Israel, Gaza, and the
West Bank, that they would be
protected, and that every life would
count and be cherished and
remembered;
Lord, have mercy.

For the wounded, and those facing
a lifetime of scars,
for those desperately seeking
medical treatment where there
is none;
Lord, have mercy.

For medical and emergency
personnel, risking their own lives
To save those of others;
Lord, have mercy.

For those who cannot see anything
but rage and violence,
that you would surprise them with
mercy, and turn their hearts towards
kindness for their fellow human beings;
Lord, have mercy.

For people of peace,
whose imagination is large enough

to conceive of a different way,
that they may speak, and act
and be heard;

Lord, have mercy.

Mighty and caring God,
you promised that one day,
swords will be beaten into
ploughshares, meet us in our
distress, and bring peace upon
this troubled land.

Amen