



every side by people and systems bent on their destruction. We sit here in the United States, feeling angry at the ways our own country is solidifying the annihilation of Palestine. Feeling helpless as we watch their suffering from afar. The sun has vanished. The moon refuses to shine. Hope is falling.

Open our hearts and minds to what you are doing in the midst of this brokenness. Help us to see the ways you are shaking the foundations of all that destroys life. Give us the stamina to stay awake, to watch and to wait for

you. Grant us wisdom and courage to participate in the ways that you are moving to restore life.

Amen

#### **Prayer for Refugee Children**

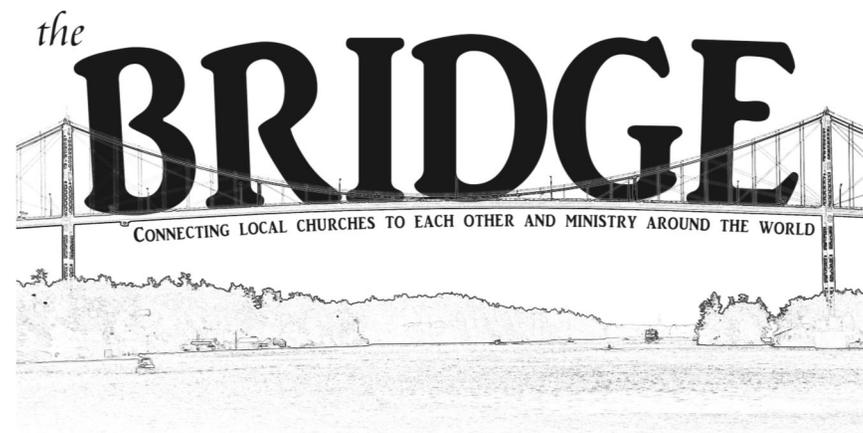
From Kairos Christmas Alert 2018

Holy One Incarnate, I remember that as a child you were spirited off to a distant and unfamiliar place. Be with all those who are suffering as refugees, longing for home as well as food and shelter and a future for their children. So be it, in Jesus' name.

*The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:*

**[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)**

Find Information and resources about how to improve your church's digital discipleship at <https://www.unyumc.org/about/digital-discipleship>.



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

## A look inside!

Respond to the cry of hope from Palestinians

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# Respond to the cry of hope from Palestinians

The Upper New York Conference Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel is urging congregants across the UNY Conference to respond to the cry of hope from Palestinians.

Can you help us get our freedom back?" the Palestinians called out to the world in 2009 in the Kairos Palestine "Moment of Truth: a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering." Kairos Palestine set in motion a global movement, rousing the churches to action and awakening civil society to the reality of Palestinian suffering. But the oppression and land taking did not stop.

"Cry of Hope" joins with movements of oppressed peoples around the world in taking a stand against the politics and economics of Empire, a global order of domination manifesting in racial, economic, cultural, and environmental oppression that threatens humanity and all of creation. It calls on churches, ecumenical organizations, concerned advocates from other faith traditions, and partners from all sectors of civil society to undertake these seven actions:

- **Initiate processes** at local, denominational, and ecumenical levels that lead to decisive action regarding the denial of Palestinian rights.
- **Confront theologies and understandings of the Bible** that justify the oppression of the Palestinian people.
- **Support Palestinian resistance**, including Boycott Divestment and Sanctions and direct political advocacy.

- **Demand** that governments and world bodies employ political, diplomatic, and economic means to stop Israel's violations of human rights and international law.

- **Oppose** equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

- **Support initiatives** between Israelis and Palestinians and interfaith partnerships that oppose apartheid and create opportunities to work together for justice and equality.

- **Come and see** the reality in the Holy Land (once the COVID-19 pandemic ceases) to stand in solidarity with grassroots initiatives for a just peace. It is also highly encourage to **read Palestine's cry for hope document** by visiting <http://bit.ly/Palestinecryforhope> and then to sign the petition here, <http://bit.ly/cry4hopepetition>, showing your support for a clear path of peace for the Palestinian people.

Also, consider visiting <https://www.facebook.com/globalkairosforjusticecoalition/> to share how you are responding to the "Cry for Hope."

Pray for Palestine on Nov. 29, the first day of Advent and also the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Below are some prayers to consider:

## Advent Prayer for Palestine

By Kenji Kuramitsu

God of branch and blaze, in this Advent season we pray for your justice and your peace. In this time of longing, shel-



ter us from the harsh rays of sun and screen. Keep us under the shadow of your wing and give us an assurance of your love when it is most hard to feel your presence.

May your holy Spirit encourage every generation that languishes under violence wrought by human hands. We pray for an end to occupation in all lands, and especially for the people of Palestine. Bring an end to the terror, invasion, and incarceration that continues to haunt us. Help us, too, to keep vigilant against the works of evil, in our own selves and in the world around us. Nurture the seeds of resistance and solidarity in our own

hearts. Fill us with a love of land and neighbor, and strike settlements from your holy soil.

We pray and wait in hope for your coming amongst us – for that peace and justice that we dare to call upon in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Prayer for Illumination

By Katie Reimer

God of Life, we come to you with feelings of despair at all that is broken around us. Our world is suffering. Our Palestinian siblings are surrounded on

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