



**PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE
IN IRAQ**



Prayer for Iraq

Creator God,

As I celebrate the birth of Christ, I am reminded of your greatest commandments—to love you with all my heart, soul and mind and to love my neighbor as myself. As I seek you this Christmas, I desire comfort for my heart, hope for my soul, and strength for my mind. My being is tired from carrying the burden of war, and I fear I may be failing to love my neighbors around the world.

The wars my country is profiting and suffering from anger me, and I confess the ways I have profited from the exploitation of the nations my country is at war with. I confess my lack of compassion not only toward those who are victimized by war—but also for those who promote and profit from it. Give me the ability to see all people through the eyes of Christ. Help me to empathize with the families of American soldiers, Marines and sailors who are trained and forced to commit unthinkable acts of violence as well as the citizens of other countries who have lost more than I can imagine.

I am weary, as are my sisters and brothers. Emmanuel, God with us, give us strength. Give us courage. Give us wisdom. Give us humility. Give us empathy. Give us the desire and will to share your healing and hope with the world around us. Amen.

Marathana Prothro is director of Communications for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership. One of only two people in three generations of her father's family to not serve in the military, she prays for peace because she has seen the long-term effects war and violence can have on families for generations to come.