

PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE
IN IRAQ



Prayer for Christian peacemakers

The Iraq Christian Peacemaker Team hopes to fly into Suleimaniya, Iraq, on October 28. Members are Anita David, Michele Naar-Obed, Peggy Gish and Cliff Kindy.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Ruler of the universe and our hearts,
We come before you in sorrow and mourning.
In Iraq, bombs burst in air and cars and marketplaces.
In seats of government, angry voices get louder.
Here at home, cruel violence grabs the lives of innocents of all ages.
Around the world, children whimper and mothers croon, tears streaming
silently down their cheeks.

Jesus, you declared, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

We puzzle about how to **make** peace and receive the blessing of being called your children.

Your prophets gave hints.

Micah tells us to beat our swords into plowshares.

That’s hard, imaginative work, converting war gear to tools of planting.

Isaiah twice writes of the wolf and lamb living together.

That takes time and training—for the lamb to risk approaching the wolf, and for the wolf to transform its lamb diet.

We’d rather be ‘peace-prayers’ than peacemakers, we admit.

But since we believe that you created us and know us inside and out,

We believe you can make us into peacemakers if we ask.

We ask.

We ask you to birth us as your children,

to give us the courage to imagine that we can make peace,

to grant us the willingness to risk our reputations and to make mistakes,

to find us the time, tools and training to become peacemakers.

Let us learn not to ask you for peace if we will not join you in the work.

In the name of the great reconciler,

Amen.

Susan Mark Landis serves as peace advocate for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership. She prays for Mennonites, that they will pray and act for peace and advocate with their legislators.