



Friends,

November 19, 2025

The season of Advent is a penitential season, in which, during the darkest time of the year, we are called to face our inner and collective darkness and turn back toward the light.

As we turn toward Advent, many Christians are encouraging each other to engage in a Day of Prayer for the Palestinian People on **Sunday, November 30th**, in recognition of *International Solidarity with the Palestinian People Day* on November 29, a day which has been observed since it was established by the United Nations in 1977. We also invite those who prefer to pray **throughout the Advent season** to do so, especially on the **Second Sunday of Advent—when many churches light a Peace Candle—being a particularly meaningful moment**. We likewise encourage people of other faiths to pray for the Palestinian people on whatever day or gathering is appropriate within your tradition.

Over the last two years the Palestinian people have endured the unimaginable.

In Gaza, we have witnessed the almost total destruction of Palestinian civilization. Houses, hospitals, farmland, schools, businesses, roads, power, water, and other utilities have been destroyed. A large portion of the population (half of them children) have been killed or maimed. Health care workers, journalists, teachers, aid workers, and government officials have been targeted and killed relentlessly. In the West Bank, Israeli settlers are violently uprooting Palestinian families and communities using similar tactics.

All of this clearly violates international law and the core principles of our faith.

None of this could have happened without the funding and support of the U.S. government, and therefore as U.S. citizens we cannot ignore our responsibility.

Let us take this moment to confront with courage and honesty our complicity in all this destruction—and to claim our shared responsibility for the renewal of Gaza.

We hope that this day and season of prayer will help us begin to understand why and how our nation became complicit in this suffering, and what we must do to prevent such harm in the future.

If you would like to join us on this day or season of prayer, please contact us at **fosna.michigan@gmail.com**. We would be glad to discuss ways to meaningfully include a prayer for Gaza in your morning worship.

One Possible Prayer for This Season

Holy God, we come to you heartbroken as we witness what the Palestinian people have suffered; you alone know the depth of their wounds. Hear our cry for justice as we echo the Psalmist, "Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel." In this season of waiting, turn our hearts toward truth, compassion, and courage; shine your light upon all who grieve and all who long for peace. We pray for the physical liberation of all captives and ask that you also liberate us from indifference, fear, and all that keeps us from standing firmly in your justice. Strengthen our commitment to repair, deepen our solidarity with the people of Palestine, and guide us in the work of healing and peace, that your justice—rooted in dignity and liberation—may come to Gaza, to the West Bank, and to all your children. Amen.

Thank you,

Interfaith Gaza Solidarity Committee

Rev. Joseph Summers, FOSNA-MI

Rev. Tom Ferguson, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

James Paul, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Karen Connor, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

Jonathan Brenneman, Christians for a Free Palestine

Dr. May Seikaly, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Dr. Jerry Walden, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Pastor Jo Hatlem, Shalom Community Church

Mark Jagner, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Ann Arbor

Chaplain Jaye Starr