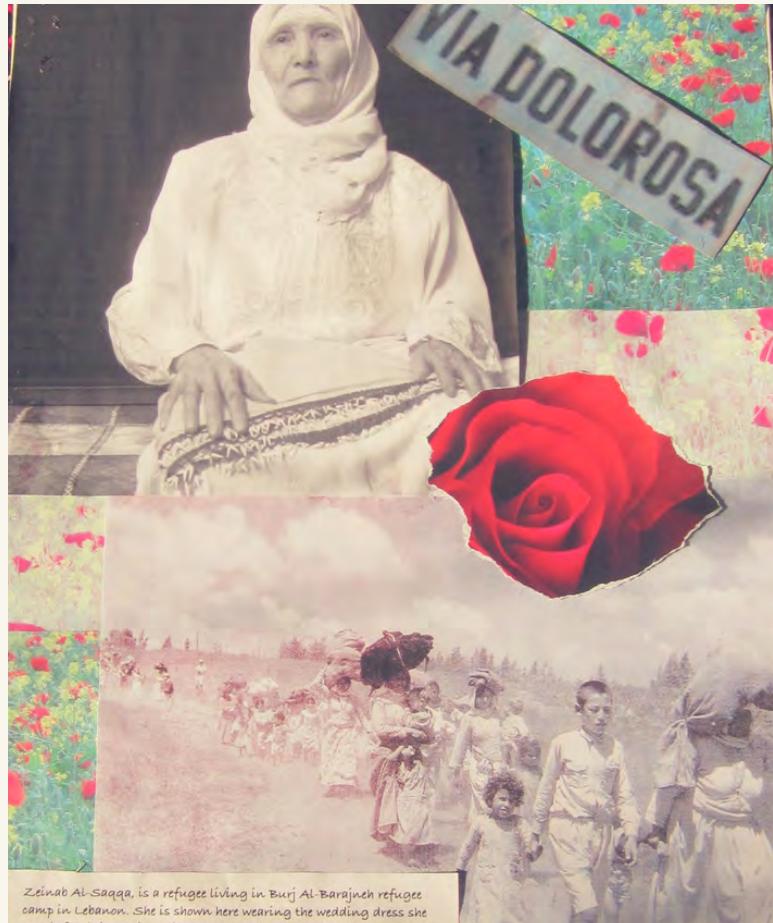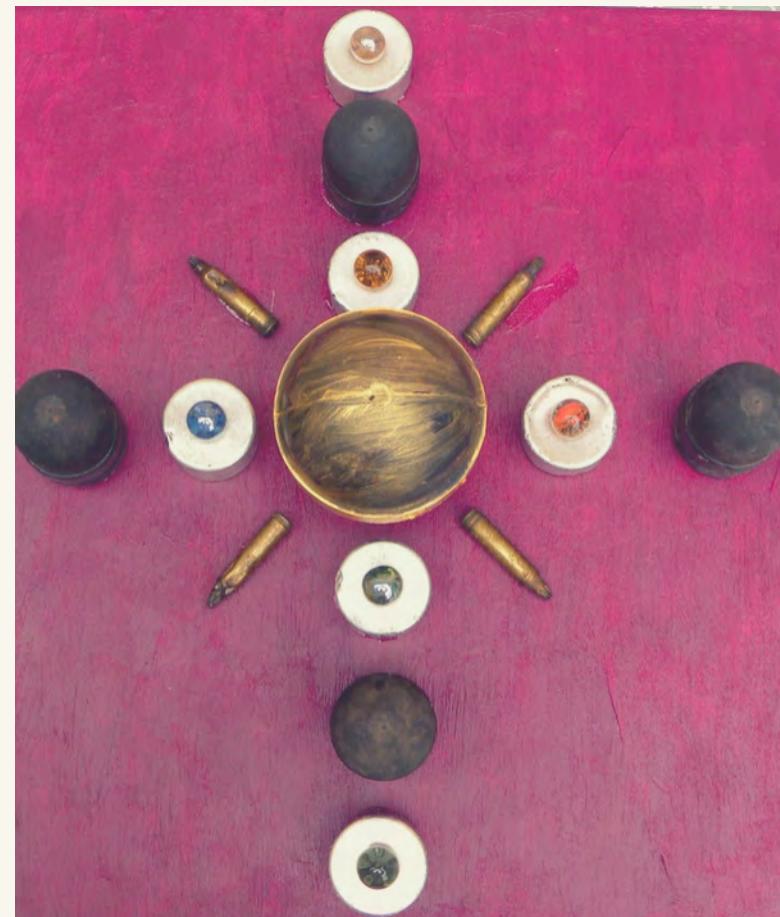# WITNESS AND HOPE REIMAGINED

ART EXHIBIT //
REV. LOREN MCGRAIL

IDar Annada
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Bethlehem

In the rubble I rummage for light and new poetry. ~
Mahmoud Darwish

CONTACT

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ARTIST BIO

Rev. Loren McGrail is a United Church of Christ minister, theologian, poet/artist who is serving the YWCA of Palestine on behalf of Global Ministries. She is also an Ecumenical Associate with the Church of Scotland.

She is named after a treasure salvager who became one of the first governors of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She is a modern day salvager making meaning and art out of things broken and lost. She who breaks bread for a living at the Table, spends her other time repairing, mending, and making things new and beautiful.

Her art---Assemblage, and writings reflect her witness in the land all call holy. She uses found and broken objects to make art in response to the events that affect her and the communities she loves and serves.

ON EARTH

as it hopefully is not in heaven.
this jumble of marbles and bullets
rubber and sponge   Pray
     the prayer you know
     by heart so it falls
     into your heart
and grows some guts
or roots

Pick them up
let the soot
of the explosive dirty you
expose you in the mirror
trying to take a snapshot
of the aftermath
of David and Goliath's
ritual dance except
this David is not king
yet

Photograph
this wee terror on earth
turned now into beauty.
See how your messed up
   morning hair
   includes you
who came after
searching the rubble
for their weapons
of mutual destruction
        some glittery marbles
             spent tear gas canisters
                  steel covered rubber bullets

Include in the mirror
   the girls in their hijabs
   keyfiahs and slingshots
   the boy who only has one eye
   the little one shot dead
        on his way home from school
Include them not just
that heavenly blue sky

On earth as it is not in heaven
yet   So much work to be done
Save us all from these times
of trial
Pray   Smear your hands
and heart with that black soot
until the marbles return
to their games

REV. LOREN MCGRAIL