

PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE
IN IRAQ



Prayers in a Time of War

Compassionate and gracious God, in these days of darkness,
when the forces of destruction are unleashed in the world,
we come to you,
not knowing what else we can do
but throw ourselves upon your mercy.

We place into your care all who are affected and afflicted
by the war in Iraq--
those who are fighting,
those who are fleeing,
those who are wounded, orphaned,
homeless, hungry, dying.

Grant us the strength, O God, to pray, with Zecharia, so long ago:
“By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Amen.

Compassionate sovereign of the world,
we acknowledge that like Mary and Zecharia,
we experience our life in the world
with both fear and faith.

At times, life, in all its unexpected twists and turns,
with all its vagaries and uncertainties,
threatens to overwhelm us.

At other times, we see glimpses of the coherence and compassion
of your mind and heart, O God,
underlying and overlaying,
surrounding and indwelling,
the confusion of our humanity.

Grant us that inner sight;
help our unbelief.
In the grace of Jesus, Amen.

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