



WORDS OF HOPE

EASTER FOR JERUSALEM

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FOR
HOLY WEEK FROM AMOS TRUST





JERUSALEM IS A FESTIVAL
AND A LAMENTATION.
ITS SONG IS A SIGH ACROSS
THE AGES, A DELICATE,
ROBUST, MOURNFUL PSALM
AT THE GREAT JUNCTION OF
SPIRITUAL CULTURES.

DAVID K. SHIPLER

Words of Hope: Easter for Jerusalem

INTRODUCTION

The City that killed the prophets; the trophy conquerors seek to grasp, but which slips through their fingers. A 'City of Peace' so full of tension, always turning the heads of the world's press.

Are all the peoples' attempts to claim it for themselves destined to fail? Can the city's value be understood only through the eyes of the three great Abrahamic faiths? Did God choose it so that we would question what our faith is in?

And if, as the singer says, God did bestow 10 measures of beauty to the world and 9 are held in Jerusalem then these are surely seen in those of its inhabitants, who, despite every obstacle, still work for peace, dignity and mutual flourishing. This Easter we pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

Chris Rose
Director, Amos Trust

MARCH 2018



Lent prayer

GARTH HEWITT

O God as we journey through Lent
May we remember we are walking with you on
a journey towards Holy Week —
May we pause and pray and meet with you.
Your teaching has been about the kingdom or
community of God,
A way of life and a community that goes up
against the empires of domination —
As relevant now as it ever has been.
The empires of greed favouring the rich
and powerful,
Instead of your way reflecting justice for all.
As you head to Jerusalem you are witness to
this on Palm Sunday
As you ride in with non-violence,
From one side of Jerusalem gentle and riding on
a donkey —
From the other side the army of empire,
injustice, greed and oppression.
As you turn the tables of oppression, so the
empire wants you killed



Lent prayer — continued

The powers who rule, crucify you: the sin of the
world kills you.
But on Easter Sunday God affirms you and all
you have done —
There is the rising again —
God's community of love continues forever.
May we be in the community of love —
The community that is never silent
And so a community of the Gospel bringing
justice and hope to all.

AMEN



Democracy

LANGSTONE HUGHES

Democracy will not come
Today, this year
Nor ever
Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right
As the other fellow has
To stand
On my two feet
And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say,
Let things take their course.
Tomorrow is another day.
I do not need my freedom when I'm dead,
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom
Is a strong seed
Planted
In a great need.

I live here, too.
I want freedom
Just as you.



WHEN GENERAL ALLENBY
CONQUERED JERUSALEM
DURING WORLD WAR I,
HE WAS HAILED IN THE
AMERICAN PRESS AS
RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED,
WHO HAD AT LAST WON
THE CRUSADES AND DRIVEN
THE PAGANS OUT OF THE
HOLY LAND.

NOAM CHOMSKY



A prayer

NAJWA FARAH

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
Who allowed us to live in this city where your
beloved Son was crucified and raised from the
dead, make us worthy of its heavenly message.
We pray that the holy places will turn us to the
things that deepen our faith and renew us in the
hope of everlasting life.

We beseech you Lord to give this holy city Peace
built on Justice. We beseech you Lord to give
the people of this city calm in their souls, and
courage in their hearts. Strengthen O God, the
hearts of those who work to bring Justice. Bless
their efforts and make them succeed over the
powers of evil, and value and support them with
your Holy Spirit.

Help us God, as we pass through such difficult
trials, that we may grow to know your truth,
that we may witness to you our Saviour, by our
lives. May the way of the cross be the one we
choose for ourselves that each will carry his
cross to follow you — Shepherd of our souls,
Teacher, crucified and raised from the dead.

AMEN





A prayer

GERALD BUTT

O LORD soften the stone hearts
of those who preach and practice
intolerance and bigotry;
as the sun's setting glow
softens the stone walls of your Holy city,
Jerusalem.

Lord, the rocky hills, the valleys,
the deserts and the sea shores
are filled with the echoes of centuries of pain.

Lord, bring peace to house and village.
Comfort the mothers who fret and those who
mourn.

Lord, keep strong the twisted old root
of the olive tree, and protect the young vine.

Lord of water and stone,
of bread and wine,
Lord of resurrection,
feed hope, and bring peace,
to this wracked but beautiful Holy Land.

AMEN



“ THE **GRANDEUR** OF
JERUSALEM IS ALSO...
ITS PROBLEM.

UMBERTO ECO





Statement of faith

CHRIS ROSE

We believe in a God whose love is so vast that no words,
no deeds, no threats, not even death can contain it.

Resurrect that which has been silenced in us
Resurrect that which seems long dead

We believe in a God who bursts into life
Who brings hope where no hope abides,
Life where the shadows rule
Who prizes open death's locked, fast fist
And with an open hand offers us himself.

Resurrect that which has been silenced in us
Resurrect that which seems long dead

We believe in a God who brings light
to the darkest places.
Who brings sight to the blind
and darkness to those who claim to see.
Who illuminates our sin and greed
and shows us what we might yet be.
Who shows us the path that leads us
from death to life, from the midnight of despair
to the bright daybreak of joy.

Resurrect that which has been silenced in us
Resurrect that which seems long dead

We believe in a God
Who calls us to hunger and thirst for justice
To be peacemakers
To be healers
To speak truth to power
To bring reconciliation to relationships
and to the troubled places of our earth
We pray for Jerusalem — may it be the
City of Peace

Resurrect that which has been silenced in us
Resurrect that which seems long dead





An Easter Prayer for Palestine

CHRIS ROSE

A broken body
Taken down from the cross.
Jesus who gave himself over to death
Trusting that the love that brought forth the world,
Would raise him from the dead
and that injustice would not have the final say.

We pray for the wounded, broken people of Palestine
As hope disappears and falsehoods grow.
May we challenge the easy political answers that 2,000 years
ago condemned an innocent man to death and today condemn
1.8 million people to life among the rubble,
cut-off and abandoned in Gaza.

May we commit not to forget, not to stay silent, not to wait for
the next mass of destruction and death that thrusts this narrow
strip of land into our headlines.



An Easter Prayer for Palestine — continued

May we pray, today, for the peace of Jerusalem,
That it may be the capital city Palestinians and Israelis long for
Where all people will be free to come and worship their God
Under equal laws, with equal rights
That respect all people and celebrate our differences.

May we place our faith in the hope of the risen Christ
In the knowledge that every effort to end injustice,
To bring peace and to speak out for the oppressed, is an effort that
God blesses, that God wants and that God demands of us.

AMEN



A radical Easter Statement of Faith

BASED ON THE WORDS OF DOROTHY SOLLE

I believe in God
who did not create the world ready made,
a thing incapable of change.
Who does not govern according to eternal mandates
that remain inviolate,
or according to a natural order
of poor and rich,
of the expert and the ignorant
of rulers and subjects.

I believe in God
who willed our desire to struggle into life
and wanted us to create change
through our work
and through our politics.

I believe in Jesus Christ
who was committed to transforming injustice
and who, like us
faced the limitations we face and the failure we feel
but did not stop
and faced death because of it.



A radical Easter Statement of Faith — continued

Looking to him I see
how our intelligence is stifled,
our imagination suffocated
and our efforts wasted
because we dare not live as he did.

Every day I am afraid
that he died for nothing
because he is buried in our churches, because we have
betrayed his revolution
in our fear and obedience of authority.

I believe in Jesus Christ
who rises again and again in our lives
so that we shall be free
from prejudice and arrogance
from fear and hate
and carry on his revolution
toward God's kingdom.



A radical Easter Statement of Faith — continued

BASED ON THE WORDS OF DOROTHY SOLLE

I believe in the Spirit
who Jesus brought into the world,
and in the communion of all peoples.

I believe it is up to us what our earth becomes —
a valley of tears, hunger, and violence
or the City of God.

I believe in a just peace
that can be achieved,
and in the possibility of meaningful life
for all people.

I believe this world,
God's world,
Has a future

AMEN



WHEN INJUSTICE BECOMES LAW — RESISTANCE BECOMES A DUTY.

ANON

TAKEN FROM A BANNER HELD IN PROTEST AFTER THE
U.S. PRESIDENT MADE THE DECISION TO MOVE THE EMBASSY
IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM.



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Holy Lavra of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified,
overlooking the Kidron Valley at a point
halfway between the Old City of Jerusalem
and the Dead Sea.



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