

The Church of England has published prayers for Syria as UN peace talks resume in Geneva today and ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Syrian conflict on March 15.

Prayer for peace in Syria

How long oh Lord? How long?

We have been crying to you for peace in Syria; for an end to killing and despair, an end to hostilities on all sides. We thank you for the current cessation of hostilities and pray it may turn into a long lasting peace.

We cry to you for humanitarian aid to reach those most in need.

We beseech you for the rebuilding of ruined homes, businesses and communities.

We long for the repairing of the breach and the restoration of streets where your children may dwell in harmony.

We cry out that justice, truth and love may prevail for all the people of Syria.

We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for those in camps, private homes, churches and communities

Father, we ask your blessing on those who have fled into refugee camps, private homes, churches and communities.

May they find the refuge they seek.

We pray for those offering welcome to relatives, friends or strangers in their homes, churches and communities.

We ask your wisdom for those working in camps and among displaced people wherever they are.

Through their care, may your gifts of patience, freedom and hope be shared with all.

We pray in the name of the Lord who is our hope, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayer for refugees

O Lord, who sees all things, you know the needs of refugees in all lands.

We pray at this time particularly for those who have fled Syria and now live in homes, churches and camps in the region and across our continent of Europe.

Watch over them.

Give wisdom, generosity and boldness to all who make decisions about their welcome and their welfare, and to all whose hearts move them to offer help.

May all Syrian refugees find true refuge.

Amen

Prayer for the Church in Syria

Lord of the church, we pray for your blessing on our sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ in the churches of Syria. Uphold and sustain them.

Keep them faithful to Jesus in the face of persecution, opposition, tragedy and turmoil.

May they know the power of your Holy Spirit to be your people in, and for, their land and nation.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ the foundation and cornerstone of your holy church.

Amen.

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