

THREE PRAYERS FOR IRAQ AND SYRIA

Noeh is just one of thousands of Christians in Iraq who fled their homes in terror when Islamic State seized control in 2014. But he'd like to go home.

Pray for them as they wait for the moment when they can return.

"I thank those people who pray for us. I am sure that God will answer the prayers. Please continue to pray with us. Our prayers are always that peace will prevail over Syria but also over other countries like Iraq and Libya." Alima, mother whose family have been supported by Open Doors in Syria with emergency relief



Bell prayer

As church bells ring and crosses rise
And signs of hope bring tears of joy
To the waste places, Lord bring life:
O King of glory, enter in.

Protect the captive citizens
Who still are waiting to be saved.
Supply their needs, relieve their fears:
O King of glory, enter in.

Fulfil the hopes of the displaced.
Give power and strength to minds and hearts
To build the future, put down roots:
O King of glory, enter in.

Lift up the cross, O church of Christ,
Ring out the bells in ancient towns,
Let every seed of prayer bear fruit:
O King of glory, enter in.

Confession Prayer

Here's the truth, Lord: You are good.
You care deeply for us all.
As your people, help us see
What we're really like.

Clap, stamp, march, as you repeat this refrain:

Brick by brick, stone by stone,
Roll our sin and guilt away.
Brick by brick, stone by stone,
Help us build for you this day.

By Your Spirit, warm our hearts
So we notice people's needs.
Help us not to turn away
But to love like You.

Clap, stamp, march, as you repeat this refrain:

Brick by brick, stone by stone,
Roll our sin and guilt away.
Brick by brick, stone by stone,
Help us build for you this day.

Prayer for Peace

This is a prayer from Syria. In some of the churches in Aleppo, children learn this prayer by heart. It has been adapted as a prayer for both Syria and Iraq with additional suggestions for actions, to make it more child-friendly.

O merciful Father, hear the cries of your people in Syria and Iraq.

Hear – stretch arm out high, palm flat

Heal those who suffer from violence.

Heal – slide one palm over the other

Console those who are grieving for their dead.

Console – place one hand on top of the other, palms down

Support Syria's neighbours in their care and their reception of refugees

Support – place one hand underneath the other, palms facing upwards, and lift together

Put some tenderness in the hearts of those who bear arms.

Put – place one hand on heart

Protect peace campaigners.

Protect – place both hands on head

O Father who gives hope, inspire leaders to choose peace rather than violence, and reconciliation with enemies.

Inspire – one hand captures imaginary breath coming out of heart

Strengthen the solidarity and sympathy of the whole church with the Syrian people.

Strengthen – clench fists, flex arm muscles

Give us hope for a future of peace based on justice for all.

Give – hold imaginary flag in air and wave it

We pray to you, O Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World.

Pray – hold out empty hand

Amen

Amen – palms together.