



A "bond of peace" as a sign of hope

"... through the bond of peace" - that's the German title of the World Day of Prayer (WDP) order 2024 from Palestine.

This title takes up this year's central biblical text in the letter to the Ephesians: "Peace is the bond that holds you all together." (Eph. 4:3) That is what we want to remember in togetherness during this service.

All over the globe this first Friday in March 2024 women, men, children and young people will pray the WDP services with longing and hope that peace worldwide and also in Palestine will not remain a utopia but may become reality and find its way into their daily lives. In our common prayer we hope that everything possible will be done on all sides to achieve peace. Even if it is difficult in view of the current political situation, we Christians hope that "... through the bond of peace" a good solution will be possible for all people in Palestine, where the Middle East's conflict and the military occupation have shaped the lives of the people for a long time.

Palestine

The choice of Palestine as WDP country 2024 was made a long time ago. At the international WDP conferences a special working group, consisting of delegates and members of the international board, unanimously decides on the committees that will be responsible for writing the worship orders up to ten years ahead. The political status and the political situation in the respective regions are not a decisive factor at the selection process. At the international WDP-conference 2017 in Brazil, the Palestinian committee was selected to write the liturgy for 2024.

Making voices heard

One of the most important tasks of the World Day of Prayer is to make the women's voices of the current World Day of Prayer country heard, to listen to them in fraternal solidarity, to be close to them and to reflect their message; as the central statement of the German committee says:

"We listen to women, learn from each other, pray together and raise our voices - as Christian women of different origins, generations and denominations."

The German statement follows the international WDP motto "Informed Prayer - Prayerful Action".

In 2024, the German WDP Committee invites people to listen attentively and actively to the experiences of Palestinian Christian women - their testimonies are the focus of the services here and in around 150 other national committees. Each World Day of Prayer liturgy reflects the everyday lives, sufferings and hopes of the Christians who developed them for sharing with others.



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The German WDP-Committee is aware of its special responsibility and challenge. For a second time since 1994 we are facing the task to make the voices of the Palestine women heard again in 2024, as voices of women in their longing for peace because we share their longing to live in peace, a human right.

The German committee hopes that the 2024 World Day of Prayer will help to strengthen the bonds of peace worldwide to Palestine, the Middle East and here in Germany.