



from Garth...

## The God whose name is Mercy

As I have been doing gigs recently I have found that people are very conscious of the quantity of problems around the world and indeed in our own community. So I thought with this newsletter I would offer a few lyrics and prayers and pieces of liturgy that might help us as we grapple with some of these issues.

We have recently had **Trinity Sunday** (27th of May). I'm fond of **Trinity Sunday** because it says something important about the character of God. When I wrote my book *Towards the Dawn* I subtitled it "A journey through Easter to Trinity" and the publishers said could we call it Pentecost instead of Trinity as people don't know Trinity! (Pentecost is the Sunday before). I accepted that as I think their point was valid, but I still ended the book with a section on Trinity called "Trinity - we believe in a communal God."

In that section, I quote from Palestinian Israeli Anglican priest Fuad Dagher, who is the parish priest of St Paul's Shefa-Amre in Galilee. He said this, "We believe in a communal God - a God who is able to live with the three images, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. We see this as a direct message as to how we are to live out the principle of community because we believe in a communal God. We live in a small village called the world and we are citizens of the same village and we have to learn how to live in communion with each other. We are



*Palestinian Israeli Anglican priest Fuad Dagher*

called to make our planet a better place in which to live."

I ended the book with this prayer about **Trinity**:

**O holy Trinity, God of community,  
Open our eyes to your ways  
Open our hearts to your love  
And open our minds to your attitude  
Where all are invited  
And all are welcome  
And where the healing hope of the Easter gospel  
Becomes a reality  
May we make the ways of God visible in our world  
Walking away from the excluding views of the past  
Walking away from actions that divide and mistreat others  
And walking away from violence  
Then, strengthened by the loving spirit of Pentecost  
Let us live and work to make real the values of your community  
And your peace.  
Amen**

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## **Yo Creo en Nicaragua**



*the beauty of Nicaragua*

Many of you know that at Amos Trust we have found that our partners in Nicaragua have been our mentors and taught us very much about communities that make a difference. In the *Against the Grain* concert tour at the moment I have been doing the song *Yo Creo en Nicaragua* (I believe in Nicaragua) early on, as a place of hope and example to encourage us.

But over the last few weeks, to our shock and surprise, protests and demonstrations in Nicaragua have been broken up with considerable violence, leaving over a hundred killed and many injured.

Our partners, CEPAD (a council of churches relief and development agency) have asked us to write to President Ortega, which we have done, expressing their

concerns.

So for the concerts I have needed to write a new verse for *Yo Creo* with these words:

*These are uncertain times – there's a crisis in the land  
Protestors are dying – and others wounded  
Pray for justice to return – pray for healing – pray for hope  
Pray for peace to come back to Nicaragua*

And the audiences have joined in the chorus:

*Yo creo en Nicaragua (I believe in Nicaragua)  
Yo creo en los niños (I believe in the children)  
Yo creo en el mañana (I believe in tomorrow)  
Yo creo en Nicaragua*

**This has been our nightly prayer for our partners and those who mean so much to us and to the country of Nicaragua.**

This version of the song was filmed at my recent concert in Broadmayne and [you can see it here](#).

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## **To the God whose name is Mercy**

I have also been working on a song for the next album(!) called *To the God whose name is Mercy*. Pope Francis has written a book with this title and it's an important reminder of the character of God; and then I have used some words from Thomas Merton for the first verse. Thomas Merton was a great advocate of peace.

The song is a reminder of the generous character of God that calls us to live out the ways of peace and hope.

***To the God whose name is mercy  
To the God whose name is mercy  
To the generous God of mercy  
We take our stand with you***

**So tell the earth to shake with marching feet  
Of messengers of peace  
Proclaim my way of love  
To every nation and every race  
Show mercy and show love**

*To the God whose name is mercy...*

Let old ways be over – no more hate  
There shall be no more war  
My people shall be one  
To every nation and every race  
Show mercy and show love

*To the God whose name is mercy...*

*To the God whose name is mercy*

*To the generous God of mercy*

*We take our stand with you*

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## Prayers for Peace

So a couple more prayers for the wounded places in the world and let's not forget our own communities suffering under the results of austerity and also of "hostile environments". Also I'm very conscious of the pain of the Palestinians at this time, and I keep hearing a voice in my mind from the film I made called *Bethlehem Hidden From View* - it is the voice of Liberation Theologian Naim Ateek, who appears right at the end of the film. He speaks with prophetic power and says, "Future generations will ask – why were you silent?" **So as we pray these prayers let's think of what actions we might do, be it letter writing or speaking, so we are not the silent ones.**



### Prayer for Peace in the Wounded Places

Vulnerable and wounded God -  
We pray for peace in the wounded places of  
our world.

Some have problems so great  
that we are tempted to despair  
and feel they can never be solved.

**But may we never lose hope. We are the  
community of resurrection  
So lift our spirits - renew our vision and  
particularly give us strength to support  
the peacemakers in those places that are  
suffering.**

May we be those who refuse to walk by on the other side -

And be those who build links of love and support.

**Vulnerable and wounded God**

**We pray for peace in the wounded places of our world.**



**To see Jerusalem being made a city that divides and excludes is very painful, and this is a prayer for peace in Jerusalem and the land once known as holy**

*written by Gerald Butt and adapted for these times*

### **A Prayer for Peace in Jerusalem and the Holy Land**

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;

**And to this is added the pain that excludes and divides today.**

**Lord, bring peace and justice to Jerusalem**

**And to every house and village.**

**Bring peace and justice to Gaza**

**Comfort the wounded and the bereaved**

**And the mothers who fret and 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 the wracked but beautiful Holy Land.

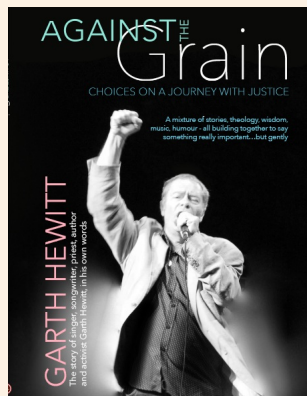
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Garth's prayer for peace for Jerusalem - he sings  
**Ten Measures of Beauty (Pray for the Peace)**  
at Haworth, West Yorkshire, May 2018

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If you might be interested in hosting Garth in concert in your church or venue  
please email [isobel@amostrust.org](mailto:isobel@amostrust.org) for more details

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To buy Garth's memoir *Against the Grain*  
go to his website [here](#)  
or the accompanying double CD [here](#)  
or for the **special price of £28 including postage for both the book and the CD**, email [isobel@garthhewitt.org](mailto:isobel@garthhewitt.org)

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