



Uniting Church in Australia  
ASSEMBLY

# Away in a Manger

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

13/12/2023  
7.30-8pm AEDT

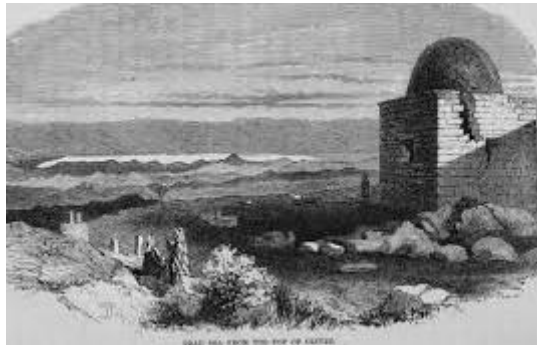


**Working for  
Justice**

Register for the Zoom  
<https://shorturl.at/cRS07>

Photo by Daniel Mayo

## Away in a Manger: Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Holy Land



As the ceasefire between Israel and Palestine ends, we are again confronted by the unthinkable violence that is taking place.

Aid has ceased entering Gaza, hostages continue to be held and bombing has resumed, reminding us that innocent civilians, including children, are needlessly suffering.

The Uniting Church has supported calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the safe release of all hostages, the opening of a humanitarian corridor and respect by all parties for life and dignity of every human being.

**Recognising that the Holy Lands are gripped by trauma this advent, the Uniting Church Assembly is hosting an online prayer vigil Wednesday 13 December 7.30-8pm AEDT.**

The gathering will include meditation, music and prayers for peace in the Holy Land. The aim is to share in solace, solidarity and to pour forth our love to all those who suffer. The Vigil will be led by Rev Alex Sangster, Working for Justice Circle Advocate, and Rev Dr Helen Richmond.

Helen spent three months earlier this year deployed in Bethlehem as an Ecumenical Accompanier. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel is operated by the World Council of Churches to provide protection and impartial witness to targeted communities.

Helen has observed first hand violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers including the demolition of Palestinians schools and olive trees, all of which occurred prior to 7 October. She has also witnessed non-violent peacebuilding efforts on both sides, reflecting the stifled but ever present hope for a just peace.