

Resourcing the Church

*Do you want to talk about Palestine in your church but don't know where to start?
Or looking to make Palestine a justice and peace issue that is central to your worship and teaching?*

Garth Hewitt will lead this workshop and offer a variety of worship and liturgy resources that you can take away at the end.

History including resources:

Finding out about Palestine and Israel -

- Amos Trust
<https://www.amostrust.org/palestine-justice/>
- Kairos Palestine
<https://www.kairopalestine.ps>
- Sabeel-Kairos Uk
<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/category/about-israelpalestine/history/>
- Stephen Sizer
<https://www.stephensizer.com>

Stephen's books on Zionism:

Christian Zionism, Roadmap to Armageddon
Zion's Christian Soldiers, The Bible, Israel and the Church

If you want to go further in the history, two Jewish historians are very helpful:

- Ilan Pappé
The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine
Ten Myths About Israel
The Biggest Prison on Earth (about Gaza)
- Avi Shlaim, another academic from Israel who lives here now
The Iron Wall
- Jeff Halper, academic and activist, author, Founder of ICAHD (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions)
An Israeli in Palestine - Resisting Dispossession, Redeeming Israel
Decolonising Israel, Liberating Palestine - his latest book

Most of us watching today are perhaps British, and that's of course where the problem starts, with the Balfour Declaration.

- Bernard Regan has a good book on this:
The Balfour Declaration - Empire, the Mandate, and Resistance in Palestine
- Rashid Khalidi
The Hundred Years War On Palestine
- Garth Hewitt
Occupied Territories , The Revolution of Love from Bethlehem to the Ends of the Earth - Bethlehem Theology
Towards the Dawn - out of print but available on Amazon

Pilgrims and Peacemakers - originally a Lent book

If you would like me to send you this list email me on garth@garthhewitt.org

Telling the story to our churches

Obviously there is a huge issue of human rights for all Palestinians, who are predominantly Muslim but there is a very active Christian community and this is probably the best way in which to bring our churches on board - namely getting them to listen to the story of the Christian Palestinians. Kairos Palestine is the key group and they came out with the paper "Cry For Hope". Allowing Palestinian Christian voices to speak and prophecy is very important.

We should be telling the story using prayers, liturgy, readings and songs

I was made a Canon of St George's Cathedral Jerusalem, and when I asked what does a Canon do, Bishop Riah said, "Tell our story, tell our story"

Theologians like

- **Naim Ateek**, Founder of Sabeel
- Lutheran Pastor from Bethlehem **Mitri Raheb**
- US Jewish psychologist **Mark Braverman**, leader of Kairos USA
- American author, liberation theologian, and retired University Professor of Jewish Studies **Marc Ellis**
- **Stephen Sizer** (see above)

Prayers

On my website, the page on Spirituality has many prayers for Palestine and justice
<http://www.garthhewitt.org/category/article-section/spirituality>

Sabeel in Jerusalem (Naim Ateek) - Wave of Prayer you can sign up for
<https://sabeel.org>

Songs

Songs from the Fifth Gospel (<http://www.garthhewitt.org/product/songs-from-the-fifth-gospel/>)
which includes Ten Measures - pray for the peace of Jerusalem
It includes devotional songs and songs about Palestine, Gaza, Bethlehem

St George's Day - booklet of liturgy, prayer, song

Beware of the cry for even-handedness - this maintains the injustice. There is an oppressor and the oppressed. See Isaiah 40:4

Partnership between churches; churches in Gaza;
We Are Not Numbers - <https://wearenotnumbers.org>

Go and See

Amos Trust - <https://www.amostrust.org/amos-travel/>

- Look for opportunities to get Diocese to bring speakers who would be suitable to speak in churches

- Watch the Amos website because they bring Palestinian speakers over to the UK and are looking for churches to host them, or you could take a group to hear them

Antisemitism

People and groups are afraid to tackle this area because they don't want to be labelled antisemitic. The IHRA definition has not been helpful.

- **Jewish Voice For Peace** has published this statement:

<https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2021/04/jerusalem-declaration/?fbclid=IwAR3Rpf-ZEE079Z6E4JyqXxJrfwuNFtECtbD-Ts3s5ownqC68KFPb1nk3K3l>

- Also this website opposing the IHRA definition - <https://noihradefinition.co.uk>

Link with:

- Sabeel Kairos
- PSC