

we cry out

(a prayer for Iraq)

“And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’”

— Luke 10: 27

Gracious God,
We join our cries today with the
people of Iraq:
Who have seen too much
violence,
Who have seen too much war,
Who have seen too much
displacement,
Who have seen too much
mourning
And borne far too great a
burden.

We cry out for peace.
We cry out for stability.
We cry out for healing.
We cry out for neighbors living
as neighbors,
as we were meant to live.

For whether we call ourselves
Christian or Muslim,
Sunni or Shiite,
Jew or Arab,
Kurd or Mandaean,
Whatever the name,
When we take up arms against
our neighbor,
When we curse our neighbor,
Even when we so much as turn
from our neighbor,
We shame ourselves before you.

So, we turn in prayer toward our
neighbors in Iraq
in their time of great need.
In solidarity with these sisters
and brothers,
we cry out to you:
Let there be joy where there is
mourning.
Let there be hope where there is
fear.
Let there be stillness where
there is violence.
And let there be peace.
A just and lasting peace.

Lord, your grace abounds.
May it rest upon the peoples of
Iraq
today and always.

Amen