**Prayer for Peace with Iraq**

God of hope and compassion,

Holy One of Abraham and Sarah,

who called our ancestors in faith to journey to a new future

Be with us as we pray.

We remember today the country of Iraq from which they were summoned,

ancient land of the Middle East, realm of two rivers

birthplace of great cities and civilization.

May we who name ourselves children of Abraham and Sarah

call to mind our sisters and brothers in the East and with them look to a new future.

God of reconciliation, God of painful sacrifice uniting humankind

we long for the day when you will provide for all nations on earth

your blessing of peace.

But now with strife and war at hand

help us to see in each other a family likeness

a common inheritance as children of God.

Keep hatred from the threshold of our hearts,

and preserve within us a generous spirit

which recognizes all peoples as children of God.

This we ask in the name of the One who came to offer us

the costly gift of abundant life.

AMEN.

--Tecie Lardner, OP