

Opening Prayer by Rev. Charlie Lewis

Gracious God, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you and voices to speak of your justice and compassion.

We lift our voices to you alongside our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Israel, and all anti-occupation allies whose lives and faiths compel them to address human suffering, to seek to have pain transformed rather than transferred.

Give us strength to continue the resistance of evil with love, to counter falsehoods with truth, to let the voices of those silenced be heard, bringing more light to blind spots.

We're grateful for this opportunity to hear from Avigail, and ask that our minds might be expanded, our hearts enlarged, and our perspective enlightened as we hear her journey of awakening leading her away from Zionism and toward an affirmation of Palestinian rights.

Strengthen all who have grown weary on this long road toward justice too long delayed and too long denied. Give us your enduring, persistent and courageous spirit to be part of the solution and the change that's needed. We pray united in faith, in hope, in love, and in justice. Amen.