



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Radix 11—Courageous Ancestors of Faith: Ruth & Esther
Plenary – October 15, 2023

OPENING PRAYER - by James Davidson

Adapted from “Prayers for Israel and Palestine” from the [Diocese of Lichfield](#), Church of England and the Saint Francis prayer.

O God, as we gather and engage with these ancient stories and characters, we are especially mindful today of the peoples of the book and the land we call holy. We pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel. We pray especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. Strengthen and support the work of all relief organisations.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of wisdom, compassion and kindness. Sharpen our minds, soften our hearts, and make of us, O God, instruments of your peace. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER – by Molly Bosch

Pádraig Ó Tuama, I'm A Prayer for Groups states:

“May we always be curious about what is beyond borders, going there gently, knowing you have always been there. We ask this because we know that you are within and beyond all our groups and our stories.”

Heavenly Creator and Nurturing Friend,

Please place your guiding and welcoming hands over this Radix community as we prepare to hear your voice in the stories of Ruth and Esther. You are the source of our being and you breathe life into us through these sacred stories. In a time where there is so much division, unrest, and communal grief in our world, may these texts bring together community and provide us with hope and clarity as we make sense of the often senseless world around us. May these stories of strength, integrity, and compassion bring to light the power of the sacred feminine energy that radiates and nurtures our own selves and our shared humanity at large. Please guide this time together and help us to use this opportunity to work for peace within ourselves, this Radix community, and the whole of creation.

In gratitude we pray, Amen.