

WHY WE ARE HERE

More than 75,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces in Palestine since 2023. The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel has found that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

[ohchr.org](https://www.ohchr.org)

We gather as people of faith and conscience to hold space, to remember and honor the lives taken, to know we are not alone in our grief, to allow the magnitude of loss to move us; to affirm our shared commitment to peace, justice, and the dignity of every human life.

While we speak aloud names of those who have been killed in Gaza, our thoughts and prayers include all who have been maimed, murdered, held captive around the world.

Though we are physically gathered beneath a Christian symbol—the cross—we come from different faiths, beliefs, and backgrounds remembering that Jesus, who was crucified, was born in Palestine.

NAMES SPOKEN

We honor these lives by speaking their names aloud. While many of us do not know the language well enough to pronounce every name perfectly, we humbly do it to the best of our ability to remember and uplift each soul.

Named in this service will be the 968 individuals under one year old and 262 members of the press killed in Gaza between October 2023 to July 2025.

data.techforpalestine.org

DURING THE SERVICE

You may come up to the **community altar** at the side of the Sanctuary at any point to light a candle, leave flowers, write down a prayer or poem, or to simply bear witness. Take whatever posture you need during this time. Come and leave as needed.

PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray, *Central Union Church*

Healani Sonoda-Pale, *Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church*

George Hudes, *Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP Hawai‘i)*

Rosemary Casey, *Newman Center - Holy Spirit Parish, Loretto Community*

Rev. David Hubert, *United Church of Christ Judd Street*

Rev. Lea Booth, *Harris United Methodist Church*

Roman Leverenz, *Friends Committee on National Legislation*

Willow Chang, *Lutheran Church of Honolulu*

Nikos Leverenz, *Friends Committee on National Legislation*

Rev. Kyle Lovett, *United Church of Christ clergy*

Kristen Young, *Faith Action for Community Equity*

Raquel Runnels, *Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Global Sumud*

Maseeh Ganjali, *Ahlul Bayt Community of Hawai‘i*

Rev. Dr. David Popham, *Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ*

Rev. Dr. Estela Chao-Reza, *Faith Action for Community Equity*

Kareem AlMudhafar, *Ahlul Bayt Community of Hawai‘i*

Ali Khater, *Ahlul Bayt Community of Hawai‘i*

Carol Gaylord, *JVP Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Global Sumud*

Jun Shin, *Korea Peace Now! Hawai‘i*

Pete Shimazaki Doktor, *Jikoen Hongwanji, Veterans for Peace*

Mahalo to all who participated through sharing, reading, and physical or virtual presence.

Community Vigil for Peace
Saturday, May 16, 2026, 3-6 PM
Central Union Church Sanctuary
1660 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Today, following the 78th anniversary of the Nakba (“catastrophe” in Arabic), we remember that the mass expulsion and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes and homeland during the creation of the state of Israel (1947-49) has yet to come to an end.

**May our grief be
transformed into
collective action for
peace and justice.**



VIEW LIVE STREAM:
bit.ly/vigil4peace

