

October 7



We Remember

The First Anniversary of the October 7 Massacre in Israel

A resource for Christian churches

What we remember

On October 7, 2023, a pogrom took place in southern Israel, in the communities bordering the Gaza strip. Thousands of Hamas militants and their collaborators broke through the security barrier, destroying homes as they murdered, tortured and raped unarmed civilians. Over 200 people were abducted and taken to Gaza as hostages. Some 1200 Israelis—Jews and others among their communities—were murdered in these attacks, including whole families burnt to death in their homes and youth gunned down in the fields of a music festival.

One year later, we remember these terrible events. We also remember:

... the heroism of those who defended their communities, many at the cost of their lives;

... the dedicated first responders, who worked to save the injured and to tend to the bodies of the dead;

... the strength of those who survived the massacre or abduction and lived to bear witness;

... all who continue to support the survivors - materially, psychologically, spiritually;

... the hostages who are still to come home.

‘The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.’

Ps 34:18

Why we remember

We remember October 7 so as to keep before the world the truth of what happened to Israelis that dark day, the terror that spawned a subsequent global wave of antisemitism. We remember so as to pray for the victims, including the hostages and their families, for whom October 7 is not just a day but a daily nightmare. We remember in solidarity with those who grieve, who are displaced from their homes, who are risking their lives on the battlefield, and who striving to rebuild what has been lost.

The events of October 7 triggered further attacks against Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran, and has led to war affecting civilian populations in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank and Lebanon. We remember and pray for all affected, the deceased and injured and all who are struggling to survive.

Let us pray

Almighty God, of justice and compassion, turn your ear to the cries of all who have been impacted by the atrocities of October 7, to those mourning their dead and missing, to those yearning for hope and healing, to those vested with grave responsibilities. Spread your mantle of shalom over all your children and show us your way of peace. Amen.