



A Bethlehem Christmas

Will you and your congregation light a red candle this Christmas Eve?

As you tell the ancient story of Bethlehem, remember the living stones—the Palestinian Christian communities living and worshiping in the land since the time of the first church.

What is Red Candle: Light for Palestine?

Red Candle: Light for Palestine is a coalition-led movement with 17 Christian organizations including the Telos Group, Bethlehem University Foundation, Chasing Justice, the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice, and Pax Christi USA. Learn more about Red Candle and our partners [here](#).

Why does this matter?

Christmas began here, in Bethlehem. A child, born. A light that carries the power to transform us all.

Yet today, like in Jesus' time, Bethlehem, West Bank is occupied. Palestinians and Palestinian Christians—who trace their lineages back to the time of Christ himself—are facing extraordinary violence and displacement, even as many Christians remain unaware of their story. Too often, Christians have even provided theological, political, and material support for the forces devastating the very community that has kept faith in the land of Christ's birth.

Today, our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ are asking the global Church to stand with them. Red Candle is our response: an embodied act of solidarity and a conviction that a Kingdom-oriented, Jesus-centered Gospel calls us to show up, *especially* in moments of rupture like these.

Last Christmas, the [first Red Candle was lit in the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity](#) in Bethlehem. That single flame spread to churches, families, and communities in **27 countries**. This Christmas, be part of the movement that is reaching across continents, borders, and languages, spreading the light of justice and peace.



How to take part

Light a red candle on Christmas Eve with your congregation. Place a red candle on the altar, Communion table, or manger scene. If you pass the light, replace white candles with red ones. Name the candle's meaning: a light for peace and justice in Palestine and for a future of mutual liberation, dignity, and flourishing for everyone in the Holy Land.

Resources available

- **Pastors Resources** | Signal your commitment to light a red candle and receive curated congregational leader resources directly in your inbox.
- **Bethlehem Devotional** | Created in partnership with the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice and Red Letter Christians, this devotional will include daily reflections by Palestinian Christians, prayers, and more. *Available October 1.*
- **Red Candles** | Purchase ethically-sourced red candles at wholesale price for your congregation.
- **FAQs** | Have questions? Review our faqs or reach out to us at info@redcandle.org.

Click Here to Commit to
Light a Red Candle on
Christmas Eve

