

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Opening Prayer: --faithandworship.com

- ❖ If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.
- ❖ If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.
- ❖ If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbors.
- ❖ If there is to be peace between neighbors,
there must be peace in the home.
- ❖ If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart.
--Lao-Tse - 6th Century

Reading:

Tragically, human beings are inclined toward war. We see it again vividly and tragically unfolding in Ukraine now that Russia has begun its invasion. We remember all whose lives are affected by this war in Ukraine. May we join together to pray for an immediate end to this violent incursion, for a restraint against domineering leadership, and a turn from war toward peace and justice. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Of course, the world is already at war in places in Asia, Africa, and South America. Before the missiles began to hit cities in Ukraine, bombs and more were already raining down on lives that are being abused or lost, families being destroyed, life being turned upside down. We know that God hears the cries of the innocent sufferers—especially those of women and children, who are most often among the greatest victims of violence and war. We join in their prayers and agonies.

Prayers against nationalistic aggression, with all its abusive power and self-justified violence, can seem futile given militarism's overwhelming tools of destruction. But the God revealed to us in Scripture is a God who knows the pathetic narratives of war, has suffered at the hands of empire, and has acted with the life-giving power of Jesus Christ, Lord of life and of death.

- L: O Lord Jesus, Servant and Master,
bringer of peace and reconciliation,
with deep sorrow and concern,
we cry out to you for the beginnings of this war now occurring in Ukraine.
- R: We long for you to arrest this violence and destruction,
to bring this war to a just end,
and for your protection for all innocent victims
and everyone directly involved in military action, in Ukraine and in Russia.
- All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

--Mark Labberton; Fuller Theological Seminary; 2/24/2022

We Pray for Peace

Sung to the melody of *FINLANDIA*

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.
The meek and humble try — amid the crisis
to love and build, to nurture and restore.
May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power;

be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges, and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1899 ("This Is My Song")



Intercessions:

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

Response: *Hear our prayer, Most Gracious God.*

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. R.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose life for all people, and life in all its fullness. R.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. R.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. R.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. R.

District & Personal Intercessions

A Blessing for Ukraine



Leader: God, the unthinkable has happened.
Swiftly, relentlessly,
by stealth and through open destruction,
the peace and beauty of the ordinary,
has been shattered in a day.

R: O God of justice and might,
We call to you to come and bring this suffering to an end.
Comfort these trembling hearts.
Shield the vulnerable.

L: Strengthen those with the resources and the resolve
to protect what they love
in the face of such overwhelming force.

R: Grant wisdom to the nations of our world,
to our leaders, and to us,
to grasp the unfathomable,
to see evil in its true light,
and come against it unflinchingly.

All: Dear Ukraine,
though we shudder to watch what is happening
We will not look away.

Meditative Music

Closing Prayer (All): --Brother Alois, Taizé

God of love,

we are disconcerted by the violence in our world, and especially now by the acts of war in Ukraine.
Enable us to stand in solidarity with those who suffer, and who live today in fear and anxiety.
Sustain the hope of all those, in this beloved part of the world, who seek justice and peace.
Send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of peace, to inspire the leaders of nations and all human beings.