

A Collection of Prayers for Ukraine and Russia: for Peace



Our Lady, the Protector of Ukraine

"I'm mindful of what St. Paul said in Romans, when he said, 'The Spirit helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray as we are, and sometimes the Spirit intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

"We pray for peace, but maybe we don't have the words. We pray for a just peace, but maybe we don't have the words. We pray that the lives of innocents and the lives of any human child of God will be spared. We pray that our leaders will find a diplomatic way, a nonviolent way of solution. But we don't know how to pray as we are. So, the Spirit must intercede for us at this time."

Presiding Bishop Michael *Curry*, The Episcopal Church

A collect for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince

of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 815

A collect for Peace Among the Nations


Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 816

A collect for our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Book of Common Prayer, 816



God of plowshares, pruning hooks,
and peace-making,
translate such old archaic words
into hope today in Ukraine
that your promise to shatter
bows and swords, spears and shields,
may mean now
an end of missile strikes
and long-range artillery,
the silencing of Kyiv's air-raid sirens.

We pray for those who flee the capital
and those who shelter in place
and in fear in Kharkiv to the east.

We pray for troops already exhausted
from their long watching.
We pray for NATO land and air forces,
knowing that means people,

and we pray for Germany and Poland
as they open borders to fleeing refugees.

God, we have studied war for so long,
let it be no more, no more.
Teach us a new peacemaking,
guiding the leaders of nations,
and holding gently in your heart
the many who live and die
because of their decisions,
for we pray in the name of Jesus
who wept for our great need
of the things that make for peace. Amen.

Maren Tirrabassi

Sovereign Lord, you observe all those who dwell on earth. Have mercy we pray on those who now suffer the miseries of a war not of their own making. Have compassion on the wounded and dying; comfort the broken-hearted; confound the hatred and madness of those who make war; guide our rulers, bring war to an end, bring peace across the world. Unite us all under the reign of your Son, the Prince of Peace, before whose judgement seat the rulers of the world will give account, and in whose name we pray. Amen.

Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, Sydney, February 24, 2022

A prayer for the Russian people

O God, who brings forth every person as a beloved child, we pray for your children in Russia, enduring under the rule of violence and fear, forced once again into war. You know their hearts, their needs, their struggles. May they know your presence with them and receive your compassion and love. May all with power hear your voice and turn from war to peace, from destruction to nurturing the world you have given to all of us. We pray for them in your holy Name. Amen.

Source unknown

A Prayer for Ukraine

God, our refuge and strength in trouble
Today we pray for the people of Ukraine,

And for those of Russia too.
For those who awoke to great fear,
For those fleeing their homes,
For all facing danger.
Help them to feel the comfort of your presence,
Change angry hearts and minds,
Drive out hatred with your love,
And war with your perfect peace,
For we ask it in the name of the One who is our Peace
Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Source unknown

As we pray for peace in Ukraine,
Pray for the disabled who cannot evacuate.
Pray for those whose caregivers may flee for safety.
Pray for those who are almost out of their meds.
Pray for those for whom the terror and chaos of war
will exacerbate their illness/disability.
Pray for safe and accessible shelters.
As the quest for power disrupts the world,
may our strength be found in how we love.

The Accessible Altar

Holy One of blessing,
God of compassion,
God who gives us hearts to grieve and to pray,
we lack words for prayer strong enough in the face of great evil -
in the face of greed and power-madness
which has led to one country invading another.
Pray within us, through us, with sighs too deep for words.

Holy One of peace,
God of mercy,
God who gives us hearts which can feel outrage,
we are helpless to stop the carnage, the destruction beyond comprehension.
We grieve for lives shattered, destroyed.

We rage in horror for the children who will never have a chance to grow up.
Our prayers feel powerless, faint against the tumult of war.
Pray within us, through us, with sighs too deep for words.

Holy One of tenderness,
God of all creatures,
God who gives us hearts to weep for so much loss,
We mourn for the birds blown from the sky by rockets and bombs.
We grieve for the pets who are lost in the chaos, frightened, helpless.
We cry out against suffering of all of your innocent creatures.
Pray within us, through us, with sighs too deep for words.

Holy One of forgiveness,
God of redemption,
God who gives us hearts which struggle to see Christ in the face of aggressors,
we battle within ourselves, not wanting to pray for the belligerent imperialists
who are wreaking destruction with pride and glee.
We confess our desires for them to experience the kind of suffering they inflict.
We confess our preference for retribution over mercy - for them.
Pray within us, through us, in spite of us, with sighs too deep for words.

Lord of Peace, Divine Ruler, to whom peace belongs.
Master of Peace, Creator of all things.
May it be thy will to put an end to war and bloodshed on earth, and to spread a
great and wonderful peace over the whole world, so that nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Help us and save us all, and let us cling tightly to the virtue of peace. Let there be a
truly great peace between every person and their fellow, and between husband and
wife, and let there be no discord between people even in their hearts.
Let us never shame any person on earth, great or small. May it be granted unto us to
fulfill Thy Commandment to 'Love thy neighbor as thyself,' with all our hearts and
souls and bodies and possessions.
God who is peace, bless us with peace.

Rabbi Nachman ben Feiga of Breslov, 1773-1810

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



A prayer for those in combat

O God, you did not create us to kill one another, to destroy, to lay waste. Yet young men and women are sent out to face each other in battle, to spill each other's blood and the blood of all who are in their way. Protect their hearts and souls in the midst of the carnage. Help them to see your image and likeness in those they are sent to destroy. Hold them back from "just following orders". In the midst of evil, let your goodness spring forth in them. Have mercy, O Holy One, have mercy. Amen.

Source unknown

Lord, We thank you that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In John 16:33 you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation. As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved. Amen.

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God of timelessness,
From chaos and disorder
you brought forth the beauty of creation;
from the chaos of war and violence,
bring forth the beauty of peace.

God of compassion,
you saw the humanity of the outcast
and the stranger;
help us to see the evils of our
hatreds and suspicions,
and turn them into the embrace
of your Beloved Community.

God of peace,
through your love on the cross
you overcame the power of
violence and death;
turn us away from the love of power
that we may transform a warring world
through the power of your love. Amen.

Bishop Mark Edington

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe.



As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.


That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares

And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donohue (1956-2008)



Holy and Gracious God

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

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

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

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

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

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

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

Source: The United Methodist Church