

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE



“I renew my invitation for everyone to take part on 2 March, Ash Wednesday, in a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in Ukraine, in order to be near to the suffering Ukrainian people, to be aware that we are all brothers and sisters, and to implore God for an end to the war” (Pope Francis).

God of peace,
your prophet Isaiah promised
swords would be turned into ploughshares,
and your Son’s mother, Mary, proclaimed
the mighty would be put down
and the humble exalted:
visit the people of Ukraine;
deliver them from fear, violence, attack,
injury, destruction, death;
and give them courage, solidarity and allies
in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.
Turn the hearts of those bent on war
and invasion.

Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict,
restore order, and pursue justice.

And make this moment of peril
an occasion for your Holy Spirit
to show your world the cost of conflict
and our dependence on one another.

In Christ our Lord,
who went to his death because of our hatred,
and rose again because our hatred is never
stronger than your indomitable love.

Amen.

*Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski,
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, UK*

**God our help in ages past,
we come before you in fear.**

**We are bewildered and dismayed by new war.
We hear the cries of those who are invaded,**

**bereaved, at risk of death,
facing destruction, violence, loss.**

**We try to understand what motivates the
invader, what ancient wrong or modern right,
what deep desire for control or suppressed
sense of ownership makes this aggression
conceivable.**

**Take from our hearts the panic
that makes this tragedy all about us,
and open our hearts in compassion
that it may be all about those in danger
and about you.**

**Turn our eyes to the body of your Son,
crucified for our merciless antagonism,
embracing our fecklessness and folly,
calling us precious, honoured and loved
as our failures are set as a seal
on his outstretched arms.**

**As you brought life
from the most desperate form of death,
bring hope today for Ukraine,
for all who seek peace,
for your wounded world.
In Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.**

Revd Dr Sam Wells, St Martin-in-the-Fields.

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.

Archbishops Justin Welby & Stephen Cottrell

**Lord of all the earth,
be present with the people of Ukraine
at this time of danger, fear, and conflict.
Grant that wise and peaceable counsels
may yet prevail,
and give to all suffering nations
the freedom they desire and deserve.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Diocese of Worcester

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 our swords into ploughshares
and seek for 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 for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name
of your blessed Son.
Lord have mercy.
Amen.

Methodist Church

**Loving God,
we pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them
and protect them.**

**We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength
and wisdom to guide their choices.**

**We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.**

**May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality
for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.**

Amen.

CAFOD

The news can be difficult to listen to
and to read.
When that news relates to faces we know
and to voices familiar to us,
it becomes all the harder to hear.

Lord God,
we ask you to hold the people of Ukraine
deep in your heart.

Protect them, we pray – from violence,
from political gamesmanship,
from being used and abused.

Give, we pray, the nations of the world
the courage and the wisdom
to stand up for justice
and the courage too,
to dare to care – generously.

Lord in your mercy,
take from us all,
the tendencies in us
that seek to lord it over others:
take from us those traits
that see us pursuing our own needs
and wants before those of others.
Teach us how to live in love
and dignity and respect –
following your example.
In your name and for your sake,
Amen.

The Church of Scotland

*Our Lady of Kyiv,
pray for your crucified people.*