

## 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.*