

Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

The people's responses are in bold.

WELCOME AND INVITATORY

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather before God in silence and deep prayer for the devastation caused in Ukraine and to the Ukrainian people. To the God of all consolation, we bring our tears and our heavy hearts, our prayers and our concerns, as we consider the ongoing losses and hardships.

Though the time seems dark and our hearts heavy, it is God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light through our baptisms into Christ. It is God who formed us as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place. It is God who blessed us in our ministry to this community and to each other. It is God who calls and sends us to care for the sick, comfort the mournful, bind up the faint-hearted, and lend help and assistance in godly love to the many needs that surround us. In Christ alone is our hope. In him and through him we find our being, even at this hour.

As the prophet Jeremiah and the children of Israel poured out their lamentations and prayers to God after the destruction of Jerusalem, so too do we bring our lamentations and concerns as we pray to the God of our salvation.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;**

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the LORD,
what awesome things he has done on earth.

**It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CANTICLE 11 (*The Third Song of Isaiah*)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

LAMENTATIONS 3:19-24

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

PRAYERS

We pray for Ukraine.

Silence is kept.

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine. 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. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

We pray for all the people of Ukraine who are suffering.

Silence is kept.

O merciful Father, you have taught us in your Holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve your children: Look with pity upon the sorrows of the people of Ukraine, for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for all the people of Ukraine who are grieving.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with the people of Ukraine in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for all the people of Ukraine who have died.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O God, we commend our brothers and sisters who have died in the war in Ukraine as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most loving Savior. In your infinite goodness, wisdom, and power, work in them the merciful purpose of your perfect will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for all the children of Ukraine who have died.

Silence is kept.

O God, whose beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them, give us grace to entrust the children who have been killed in Ukraine to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for the enemies of Ukraine.

Silence is kept.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies, we pray for the enemies of Ukraine. 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.

We pray for the leaders of the world.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart a true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, especially those involved in this war in Ukraine, that in tranquility, your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for peace among the nations.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth. We pray especially for the country of Ukraine, the war there, and all the nations involved. Establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING EXHORTATION

Brothers and sisters, we have gathered together to pray, feeling the weight of sin and violence in the world, and especially in the war in Ukraine. The Bible tells us that when one part of the Body of Christ mourns, we all mourn. Tonight, we have mourned with the Church in Ukraine. As we go out from here today, continue to pray faithfully for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, and even as you face the sorrows and wrongs that are done to them, do not lose hope. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

THE BLESSING

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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