

# ECUMENICAL PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE

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## CAFOD

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.

In this time of crisis Jesus, light of the world  
you promised to be always with us.

Be with our sisters and brothers now,  
dispelling the darkness of this crisis.

Compel us to be with them too  
in thought, prayer, and solidarity,  
responding to their suffering  
with the same compassion you have shown us.

We make this prayer in the firm faith  
that your light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness cannot overcome it. Amen.

## JEWISH PRAYER FOR PEACE

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
that we may walk the paths of the Most High.

And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,  
and our spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation-  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And none shall be afraid,  
for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

## ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

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.

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, CARDIFF

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look down with Thy  
merciful eye upon the sorrow and greatly-painful  
cry of Thy children, abiding in the Ukrainian land.

Deliver Thy people from civil strife, make to cease  
the spilling of blood, and turn back the  
misfortunes set against them. Lead unto  
sanctuary those bereft of shelter, feed the  
hungry, comfort those who weep, and unite the  
divided.

Leave not Thine own flock, who abide in sorrows  
on account of their kinsmen, to diminish, but  
rather, as Thou art benevolent, give speedy  
reconciliation. Soften the hearts of the  
unmerciful and convert them to the knowledge of  
Thee.

Grant peace to Thy Church and to Her children,  
that with one heart and one mouth we may  
glorify Thee, our Lord and Saviour, unto the ages  
of ages. Amen.

## **METHODIST CHURCH**

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.

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

Lord of all people and all nations,

We lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia, Each girl and boy, each woman and man living in fear of what tomorrow might bring,

We long for a time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah, When weapons of war would be beaten into ploughshares, When nation will no longer lift up sword against nation, We cry out to you for peace,

Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety, Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones, Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression, Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace,

Please Lord come and have your way in your world, May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven, May your peace reign. Now and always, We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine, In the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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 UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth;

lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust;

lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart,  
our world, our universe

Peace, Peace, Peace, Amen.

Peace takes walking  
So we walk  
When we feel defeated  
When we question whether we matter  
When we are just surviving  
When we wonder why we are doing this?  
When we want to find our own path

Peace takes walking and so we walk  
And the rain falls and the wind blows  
And the sun burns our eyes with its heat  
And we feel our feet  
And our hearts beat  
And it is hard and we are slow  
And we don't know where to go  
And we see ourselves for the first time  
And we see each other for the first time  
And we see the land for the first time

Peace takes walking and it takes time  
And we have time  
To hope and we are freed from limitations  
And it is a prayer  
And we walk from our daily lives  
Into different places and we heal the earth  
And we walk  
Together, alone with direction, with abandon  
Carefully, gently deliberately, with passion,  
until one day we find  
that we have walked home  
and there is peace

*by Laurie Pollack, from Nevada Desert Experience*