

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine



Please light a candle in your prayer space (View the lighting of the candle in our chapel [here](#))

May your candle be a symbol, not only of your individual prayer, but also of our common prayer for a resolution to the war between Ukraine and Russia. For a resolution and renunciation of the use of armed forces in this region, for serious negotiations, not only in the hope of resolving this war, but also to work toward lasting peace.

May the light of our candles burning in the darkness remind us of the light of God's love, and the power of Love to illuminate even the deepest darkness of hatred, mistrust and fear. May we believe in this light, take comfort and strength from it, believing deeply in God's faithfulness and love.

Breath prayer

Sit quietly for a few moments, breathe slowly...

Take a breath, breathe out anxiety, and breathe in peace...

Breathe out fear and breathe in trust...

Breathe out resentment and breathe in joy...

Breathe out hate and breathe in Love...

Breathe out worry and breathe in the calmness of God's presence becoming fully present to this moment, this time of prayer, to your Christ-centered self...

Christ our Light, Catherine McAuley our vision be with us.

Opening Prayer

God of faithfulness, we come to You troubled by the war in Ukraine. We are filled with anxieties and questions. What change are we able to effect by our prayer before You, by our words, by our deeds? What can we do to bring peace to our planet?

God, we need Your grace to settle and redirect our hearts. We need Your hope to rekindle and sustain our passion for justice. We need Your wisdom that we might recognize anew Your presence dwelling within us, calling us to live as people of light and hope rather than of darkness and fear.

Be with us. Help us to truly believe, not only in Your abiding presence within and among us, but in the power of our prayer to move mountains. Help us, O Beloved, to build a world where people of every nation form community, where all co-exist in peace, gratitude, and love. All this we ask in the name of You, Our Creator, who creates peace in our hearts.

Be still and aware of God's presence and peace all around you

Readings

1st Reading

Philippians 4:6-7

Rejoice in God always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

2nd Reading

Blessing Our World Now
(adapted)

John O'Donohue
Benedictus p. 224

Sometimes when we look out, the world seems so dark. War, violence, hunger and misery seem to abound. This makes us anxious and helpless. What can I do in my private little corner of life that could have any effect on world events? The usual answer is: nothing. We then decide to do what we can for our own and leave the great events to their domain. Thus, we opt out, and join the largest majority in the world: those who acquiesce. Believing ourselves to be helpless, we hand over all our power to forces and systems outside us that then act in our names. We live in times when the call to full and critically aware citizenship could not be more urgent. When we yield to helplessness, we strengthen the hand of those who would destroy. When we choose indifference, we betray our world. Yet the world is not decided by action alone. It is decided more by consciousness and spirit; they are the secret sources of all action and behavior. The spirit of a time is an incredibly subtle, yet hugely powerful force. And it is comprised of the mentality and spirit of all individuals together. Therefore, the way you look at things is not simply a private matter. Your outlook actually and concretely affects what goes on. When you give in to helplessness, you collude with despair and add to it. When you take back your power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world. In this way, even in your own hidden life you can become a powerful agent of transformation in a broken, darkened world.

Song

Healing Prayer

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Oh, heal our vision. Heal the division.
Oh, heal our world that we might live as one.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrdUyVr8hFo>

Prayers of Hope – Response: *O God present amongst us hear our prayers*

We pray for the two million people who have fled Ukraine, especially the women and children forced to flee for their lives. We pray for the men and women left behind fighting the unjust bombing, destruction and loss of lives. *O God, present amongst us hear our prayers.*

We pray for the medical personnel caring for the injured, risking their own personal safety and wellbeing, *O God present amongst us hear our prayers.*

We beg you to instill into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of solidarity, *O God present amongst us hear our prayers.*

We pray for visionaries and peacemakers to rise up and grow in courage to challenge this unjust war, *O God present amongst us hear our prayers.*

We place our hopes for peace in our committed action against violence and injustices of any kind and commit ourselves once again to be your presence to our neighbor as we pray for all peoples to live in peace.

Closing Prayer

Prayer for Ukraine Under Invasion

Written by Rev. Maren Tirabassi

God of plowshares, pruning hooks,
and peace-making,
translate such old archaic words
into hope today in Ukraine

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.

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.

God, we have studied war for so long,
let it be no more, no more.

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.

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.

Music from Ukraine

"Creator of Heaven and Earth" was recorded by the Peace for Ukraine media project, a collaboration of various young singers and musicians in Ukraine to glorify God and draw attention of the worldwide community to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

Listen now: <https://youtu.be/LQdWXMxn-FY>

