

Prayers for Peace

compiled by Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening prayer

God our Father,
You reveal that those who work for peace
Will be called your daughters and sons.
Help all those working for peace in Ukraine and Russia
We pray for a resolution to end the war of suffering of the people of
Ukraine.
Amen

Act of contrition

Lord, have mercy on us,
if You are for us, who can be against us?

Christ, have mercy on us,
especially if our hours are numbered.

Lord, have mercy on us,
especially in days of war

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

From Missa in tempore belli by Boris Khersonsky

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:6-9)

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good

and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable. Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (1:46-55)

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant.
Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name,
and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him.
He has used the power of his arm,
he has routed the arrogant of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones
and raised high the lowly.
He has filled the starving with good things,
sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant,
mindful of his faithful love
-according to the promise he made to our ancestors of his mercy
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever".

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Extract from the letter from The Conference of European Churches

We live in a world where everything is interconnected. This is evident when we think of the ecological crisis, Covid-19 pandemic or discussions on sanctions against Russia. As Pope Francis writes in Fratelli Tutti, “we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. No one is saved alone; we can only be saved together. We are part of one another”

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) European Regional Pre-Assembly - 25 February 2022

Prayers of intercession

We pray for the people of Ukraine, that by your Spirit they will find strength and courage
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those worried about family and friends in Ukraine, that your Spirit will give them comfort.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those in Russia, especially those speaking out against the invasion of Ukraine. May your Spirit guide and protect them.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our world leaders, that your Spirit will give them the wisdom needed to make the right decisions.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those providing humanitarian support to the people of Ukraine. May your Spirit continue to give them the understanding and right judgement they need to continue helping others.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We ask Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to join our prayers with hers as we say

**Hail Mary
Full of grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou amongst women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners now
And at the Hour of our Death
Amen**

Closing prayer

Help us to work 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

By Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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PEACE LITANY

When peace is fragile, **stay with us, Lord.**
When tempers are raised, **stay with us, Lord.**
When atrocities occur, **stay with us, Lord.**
When forgiveness is rejected, **stay with us, Lord.**
When talks break down, **stay with us, Lord.**
When agreements are broken, **stay with us, Lord.**
When darkness weighs upon us, **stay with us, Lord.**
When we cannot see you, **stay with us, Lord.**
When burdens feel too heavy, **stay with us, Lord.**
When hope seems faint, **stay with us, Lord.**
When we are weak, **stay with us, Lord.**
When faith seems difficult, **stay with us, Lord.**

For all who have lost hope, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who suffer, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are sick and in pain, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are struggling, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who have been badly hurt in life, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are grieving, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are depressed, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who feel rejected, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who feel unloved, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are oppressed, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are anxious, **walk with them, Lord.**

Archdiocese of Dublin

<http://litmus.dublindioocese.ie/2011/12/prayer-of-support/#more-612>

Prayer for peace

Heavenly Father,
Your will for your people is peace, not war.
Pour out on our world, especially in Eastern Europe, your Spirit of compassion and solidarity.
Grant all those who believe in you the strength to be close to those who suffer
and the courage to resolve their differences and conflicts in truth and without resort to arms.
Be with the widow, the orphan, the refugee and the peacemaker.
Bind us all into the peace of your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

By Fr Damian Howard SJ,
Provincial for the Jesuits in Britain
<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/news/pray-for-peace-in-ukraine>

THE COVENTRY LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, **FATHER FORGIVE**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, **FATHER FORGIVE**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, **FATHER FORGIVE**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, **FATHER FORGIVE**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, **FATHER FORGIVE**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, **FATHER FORGIVE**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, **FATHER FORGIVE**

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/wpsite/litany-of-reconciliation/>

A Prayer for peace

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?

How can words salve and soothe real wounds,

Assuage real fears, Wipe tears from real eyes?

God of endless compassion, transform our prayers

From words into bridges, that span the distances

Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.

Every time we turn our keys in a lock,

May we remember all who are losing their homes.

Every time we step into our cars,

May we remember all who are having to flee.

Every time we embrace our children,

May we remember all who are trying to shield theirs from war.

May our besieged sisters and brothers

Be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,

And may our cry be heard as one voice,

Ring out from every corner of the earth:

God of endless mercy, grant us peace.

Amen.

Cameron Bellm is a Seattle-based writer of prayers, poems, and devotionals. After completing her Ph.D. in Russian literature at the University of California, Berkeley, she traded the academic life for the contemplative life, informed by Ignatian spirituality and Catholic social teaching.

<https://www.jesuits.org/stories/a-prayer-for-peace/>

Some suggestions for music that may be helpful:

Be still and know that I am God	anon	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJPRzAKyg
Be still my soul	K. von Schlegel/Sibelius	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwkPsKe-39Y
Calm me Lord	Margaret Rizza	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NExzCAfw-1w
Christ be near	Keith Duke	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCe0TvcUGlc
Deep Peace	Libera	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq-sQILFf5o
Healer of my soul	John Michael Talbot	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amEntTOMwMA
Keep me safe O God	John Foley	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRMw4gE7tvw
Litany of Peace	Barbara Bridge	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OfY0tf5Gcw
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us	Taizé	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuSa-DtVYJU
My soul is longing for your peace	Lucien Deiss	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5csV55ZxS3w
Within our darkest night	Taizé	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqQsZK57OX8
Your Mercy Like Rain	Rory Cooney	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Etu_bouh4Ec

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

CAFOD

Video on the Ukraine Appeal <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yHWFwNtfCU>

Further information on Ukraine <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>

Prayers for Ukraine <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Ukraine-intercessions>

Much loved, and older, prayers for peace

https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/656/5982/version/6/file/Prayer_peace_popular-collection_prayers.pdf

Pax Christi England and Wales

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Prayers-for-Peace.pdf>

Jesuits

<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/news/pray-for-peace-in-ukraine>

<https://www.jesuits.org/stories/pray-and-act-for-ukraine/>

Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>

The Methodist Church

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-for-peace-in-ukraine/>

Taize

https://www.taize.fr/en_article33422.html

Churches across the UK and Ireland to unite in prayer for Ukraine

On the 3rd of April 2022, churches and Christians from across the UK and Ireland will come together in an act of witness to pray for the people of Ukraine and for an end to the conflict.

Among the faith leaders supporting the act of witness are Archbishop Justin Welby, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, Rev Dr Hugh Osgood, Bishop Tedroy Powell, The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Lord Wallace and The Most Reverend Andrew John the Archbishop of Wales.

Across the country, churches of all denominations are encouraging congregations to pray for Ukraine and to hold a visible act of witness – including the lighting of candles - in their local community.

National events will also take place in London, Edinburgh, Wales and Northern Ireland. In London, people are expected to come together, light a candle, and pray for the people of Ukraine outside the Ukrainian embassy.

Churches and Christian organisations continue to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine with prayers and appeals for aid. Christian Aid is working with partner organisations through the ACT Alliance to help people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

One of their partners, Hungarian Inter Church Aid (HIA), has sent food and other essentials to Transcarpathia in Ukraine. HIA has also scaled up a field office in Beregovo including providing tents, mobile toilets and blankets, to support tens of thousands of refugees.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

“When we pray, we invite the presence of God into the messiness and darkness of our world. When we pray together, we witness to the possibility of unity and the promise of reconciliation that God promises us in Jesus Christ.

“I urge all Christians to come together on the 3rd of April to pray and light candles for the people and the peace of Ukraine: to pray for hope for those fearful of the future, to pray for God’s comfort for those suffering, and to pray for the Holy Spirit to turn hearts towards the compassion and justice that the resurrected Christ promises us will eventually prevail.”

CTE Pentecostal and Charismatic President, Bishop Tedroy Powell, (Church of God of Prophecy) said:

“Our current geo-political crises, and in particular Ukraine, cries out for lament, from our global ecclesial community!

“*O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? Why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?*’ Psalm 74:1.

“It is my prayer and hope that, we, the global church family, facing this disaster, will pursue recovery of our inalienable privilege to protest to God for healing. May we join others in the universal anthem of lament, on 3 April 2022.”

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Jim Wallace, said:

“Watching regular news reports of the tragic and violent events in Ukraine, it would be all too easy to feel helpless. But, as followers of Jesus, we cannot ignore the plight of the Ukrainian people.

“Our response must be rooted in prayer, not least so that those who suffer and are in fear might know they are not forgotten and most certainly not forgotten by God.

“That is why Christians across the land will unite in prayer on 3rd April and pray that in the darkness of unprovoked aggression those suffering will know the light of hope, and that above the deafening clamour of bombardment, they will hear words of love and peace.

“And it will be an opportunity to renew calls for a ceasefire and to express support for those delivering humanitarian aid and assistance. I hope that Christians in every corner of the land will take this opportunity to display solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.”

Chair of Christian Aid and former Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, added:

“Like the people of Ukraine looking out for their neighbours or the charity workers delivering emergency food to people seeking refuge, we must bring hope.

“That is why Christians from across the UK and Ireland - recognising the God-given human dignity and rights of every human being - are uniting in an act of witness to pray for Ukraine and an end to the conflict.

“With one voice, we are uniting behind a simple message: immediately agree to a ceasefire and unequivocally commit to protect civilians and key services.

“Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to the people of Ukraine. By joining us, you can give hope to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.”

For broadcast bids, please email dagreen@christian-aid.org.

More information can be found at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/pray-for-ukraine>