

Prayer Guide for Ukraine

Below are some suggested prayers written by our pastors to help guide your in your own prayers about the war in Ukraine. We hope you will join us in praying from 12 pm until 12:15 pm every day.

God of all nations,

Draw near to the people of Ukraine. In their fear, give them comfort. And help them to be comforters to their children. In their panic, give them peace. Our deepest prayer is that the folks in Ukraine would be protected and that there would be a path to safety. Be with their military as they literally lay down their lives for one another. Grant wisdom to the leaders and peacemakers. Be with us too, that our hearts would not become numbed to the terror and loss of our brothers and sisters. Help us to be generous and welcoming to those who will seek asylum. Open our eyes to ways that we might help. Praying with desperation and trust, amen.

Gracious God,

We stand in opposition to the violence brought against innocent populations in Ukraine. We seek divine intervention in the defense of those who are now forced to be refugees in their own land. Guide them through the literal and symbolic darkness that descends upon them with every attack from their enemies. Place a hedge of protection around the people of Ukraine. Take care of the children who flee in fear. Bring peace to those forced to take up arms. Empower them with courage in the face of their adversary. Bring about the physical security that is needed for peace. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

Prince of Peace,

We pray for all of the leaders of the world — that the Ukrainian leaders would have courage, discernment and strength, that Ukraine's allies would be sacrificial with their resources and support, and that the Russian leaders would develop compassion and wisdom. We pray that the hearts of those who call for war would be softened. We know that there are millions of Russians who are devastated by their leaders' actions and who stand in opposition to this war. Please protect the protestors as they cry out for peace. We know also that there are millions of Russians who have been brainwashed into believing that they are liberating Ukraine. Give them clarity and understanding of the situation. Amen

God,

There are so many people putting their lives on the line in Ukraine - not just day after day, but hour after hour, minute after minute. We pray for the members of the military that don't get to take a break, but who are using every physical, material, and emotional resource they have to defend their fellow countrymen. We pray for the emergency aid workers who rush toward the bombs rather than away from them so that they can save the injured. We pray for the doctors and nurses who are risking their lives to stay with their patients. We pray for the Russian journalists who are battling propaganda to try to shine the light of truth on the situation. For all of these people, endow them with the strength that only you can give. We pray that when their bodies and minds cry out to stop that you will give them the endurance and perseverance to press on. Amen.

Loving God,

We pray for peace and reunification for the families caught in the conflict in Ukraine. We ask your blessing and protection for the men who are leaving their wives, their children, their sisters, and their parents so that they can defend their country. We pray too for those whom they leave behind, that they would not be overtaken by anxiety and terror about their loved ones but would have the peace of your

Holy Spirit. We pray that you would comfort those who have been separated from their families. Remind us that even when we feel overwhelmed, you are never overpowered. Amen

Creator of the Universe,

You have created us and declared that we are not only good, but very good. In this moment I stand with you and acknowledging that all humans are made in your image. Lord, bless all who are involved in the war in Ukraine. Bless them with your love that casts out fear that creates violence, terror, and the desire to dominate and control. Lord in your great mercy soften the hearts of leaders and those in combat. Intervene in their actions. Lord, it is difficult, but we pray for our enemies. We lift them up and ask that your kindness would bring them to repentance. Your love would turn them from the path of enacting harm and plant them firmly on the path of grace and mercy. Come Holy Spirit, pour yourself out on Ukraine and Russia and make a way where there seems to be no way. Amen.

God of peace and healing,

What we're seeing on the news out of Ukraine is horrifying. We can't help but see ourselves in this situation. What would we do if we had to abandon our homes? Or separate from our families? Or hug our children goodbye?

So we pray you would turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, and move world leaders to choose peace over war.

We pray for those fleeing the war. Keep them safe.

We pray for those stuck fighting the war. Keep them safe.

We pray for those who keep the war going. May they see the light.

We pray for peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

God of all nations,

Our refuge and strength

Be present to us in this time of trouble.

Give us courage. Root out our fears as the earth shakes and changes

As chaos roars around us, be our center and stability.

God, you are in the midst of the cities of Ukraine.

Give Ukraine's citizens confidence in your presence;

That your help comes when the morning dawns.

Lord of all – be with us.

Be our refuge and strength.

Amen.

Psalm 31:21-24

21 Praise be to the Lord,

for he showed me the wonders of his love

when I was in a city under siege.

22 In my alarm I said,

"I am cut off from your sight!"

Yet you heard my cry for mercy

when I called to you for help.

23 Love the Lord, all his faithful people!

The Lord preserves those who are true to him,

but the proud he pays back in full.

24 Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.

Resources for Families:

Prayer After a Traumatic News Event (by Traci Smith)

God, when sad things happen,
You are sad too.
You understand.
Thank you, God,
for always hearing us.
Help us to be kind and peaceful, always.
We light a candle to remind us of your love for all.

Three Truths for Kids About God and Hard Times (by Meredith Miller)

God is just.

Sounds like: God cares about hard things happening in the world, and God cares about justice--everyone having what they need and deserve. If people or systems are unjust--where powerful people have a better experience than less powerful people--God cares about that, and wants to see things fixed.

God is near.

Sounds like: Our whole story is that God cares so much about suffering that God comes to us: from freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to becoming a person like us in Jesus, God isn't far away watching over us all. God is always near.

God invites people to help.

Sounds like: God works with and through people So God is going to invite people to help, and many of them will say yes. For things to get better, the people of God will need to listen to God and act together in ways that match who God is. How might God be asking us to help, do you think?

