

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine and Around the World

When faced with a terrible crisis like the war in Ukraine, we often feel overwhelmed, we want to pray but it can be hard to find the words. The Bible is familiar with situations of war and the deadly impact of it on ordinary people. Does it help to pray in the face of such violence? Prayer is aligning our hearts with God's heart. We read in the Bible that God's compassionate heart is with those who suffer, the displaced, the poor, the marginalised, the helpless and the oppressed. Prayer may lead to transformation, to change and to hope. Sometimes prayer is just crying out from a place of misery like the Israelites enslaved in Egypt. Prayer also leads to God setting his people free, through human agents. Prayer, with or without words, unites us with people of all faiths around the world who are praying for peace.



May the prayer and worship resources below be of help as you respond individually or within your churches to the war in Ukraine and ongoing wars in other parts of the world. Have a look at the websites at the bottom of this document which include many more prayers, worship resources, prayer activities and songs. The websites of charities also contain information about financial or other practical ways of helping those effected by war.

Psalm 31 read by Ukrainian Christians produced by [The Bible Society](#)

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.

From the [Cafod Website](#)

Almighty and merciful God,

whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;

inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;

and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of
justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the [Church of England website](#)

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

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

A prayer by the Lutheran Church in Russia and the Orthodox Church in Ukraine:

Almighty God, you know how little strength we have to stand up to the abuse of power, corruption and violence.

Strengthen us with your irresistible strength so that we do your will and make your light of truth shine here on earth. Free us from the hardships of war. May those who have lost their homes find new places to stay, give the hungry food, comfort those who weep, unite those who are separated. Make us instruments of your peace and your righteousness, and equip us with all that is necessary to serve our fellow human beings. Do not allow your church to lose anyone out of anger towards their fellow humans and relatives; instead, like a generous God, give us reconciliation soon.

Above all, strengthen our faith, revive our hope and teach us to love.

Preserve us from the arbitrariness of the powerful of this world and lead them to recognise their limits.

Bless us with your peace so that we can work together, hand in hand, for a more free and just society, to your praise and glory. **Amen**

From the [Joint Public Issues Team](#)

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the war in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

From the [Methodist Church](#)

Universal Prayer for Peace:

O God, 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 hearts, our world, our universe. Amen

For more prayers, worship resources, liturgies, songs and (all age) prayer activities

- [Tearfund – How to Pray for Ukraine](#)
- [The URC website](#)
- [Iona and Wild Goose Worship](#)
- [Engage Worship, including Ukrainian worship songs](#)
- [Christian Aid's prayers for Ukraine](#)
- [The Methodist Church website](#)
- [Liturgy from the national Church of England](#)