

Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Friday, March 25 at 6PM



Virgin of Kyiv

You are invited to stand.

Opening Prayer

Tonight we join our prayer for justice and peace along with those from around the world:

God of justice and peace, your children are scared and fearful. So many need your healing embrace this day. Protect all who live in the crossfires and amid war. Be with the people of Ukraine. Be with those who huddle in subway shelters and put loved ones on buses, not knowing when they will see them again. Be with the protestors in Russia who have taken to the streets to stand against the violence being done in their name. Give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous.

God of all nations, this is our song. Loosen the grip that evil has on humanity. Guide our world leaders so their decisions may be informed by your divine wisdom. Help them to see our interconnectedness and interdependence.

Holy Spirit, descend upon the many corners of this world in need of your saving love and abiding peace. Turn these prayers into action— voices that call out in advocacy, hands that stretch out in reconciliation, hearts that reach out in love.

Prince of Peace, you said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." We long for the day when swords will be beaten into ploughshares. May we be bold enough to declare an end to all war and violence. Make us instruments of your peace. We pray all of this in your name. **Amen.**

From the Memorial Church at Harvard University

Please be seated.

Psalm 46:1-8

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;**

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

All are invited to come forward and light a candle during this time of silence.

Good and gracious God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in trust we pray to you.

We pray for the Church:

Particular intercessions /thanksgivings may be offered.

O God, enliven the Church for its mission

that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people. Strengthen those who work for peace and reconciliation

that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love.

We pray for the world:

Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace

that all may live in freedom and truth, and that the evils of war, violence, and oppression may be eradicated from the world.

We pray for the community:

Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affects the lives of others

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in each other and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need:

Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

God of love, be with the victims of armed conflict, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds received, courage to advocate for peace, and the grace to overcome hared with love.

Be with them to strengthen and uphold them.

Make us willing agents of your help.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

We remember those who have died.

O God, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Surround them with the assurance of your presence.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 2:2-4

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Blessing