

# Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Fridays at 6PM



**Virgin of Kyiv**

*You are invited to stand.*

Good and gracious God, you have bound us together in a common life. We come this day with pain at the deaths and injuries caused by war and gun violence. Nations and families mourn, children live in fear; gather us all in your gracious arms. Touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear, those who see no way out. Give us courage to work for change, for a world in which all may live in peace and safety. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Psalm 85:7-13

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

**I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

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

Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church and for the world.

Giver of life and love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of our times. For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for those affected by war and violence, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

God of righteousness, you have given our leaders here and around the world the power and responsibility to protect us and all people, and to uphold the dignity of every human being. For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful challenges, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

God of compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, for firefighters, for EMTs, and all whose duties bring them to places where violence occurs. Give them courage and sound judgment. For brothers and sisters who risk their lives and their serenity as they rush to our aid, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Merciful God, bind up the wounds of those suffering from the violence of war and gun violence, those injured, those left alone and grieving, those who struggle to get through one more day, those who have lost their homes and their land. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. For all whose lives are marked by violence, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

God who remembers, may we not forget those who have died. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care. For all who have died, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

God of justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to rise above our fear that nothing can be done. Grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of love and harmony, we pray:

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers, silently or aloud.

*The people may offer their intercessions.*

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.**

A Reading from the prophet Micah (4:1-5)

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. People shall stream to it, and many nations 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 many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; 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; but they shall sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

### **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**