

Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Fridays 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:

O God, how hard it is to sit here in this quiet world while just over the horizon death is falling from the sky. How helpless we feel to change that reality. We cannot bring our safety to those in danger. We cannot end their struggle as much as we wish we could. But we believe the love of the Holy Spirit is in both places at once. It is here in our life and there in their heartbreak. With all the faith we have we seek to connect those two end points of hope: let whatever love was meant for us go to them. Let it help in any small way it can. Let it ransom as many as it can. Let our love do what our life cannot and span the distance between our peace and their pain.

Amen.

Adapted from a reflection by The Rt. Rev. Steve Charleston

Please be seated.

Psalm 139

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end^[a]—I am still with you.

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 affect 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 hatred 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.*

Micah 4:1-7

In 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.

Peoples shall stream to it,

² 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.

³ 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;

⁴ but they shall all 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ In that day, says the LORD,
I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away,
and those whom I have afflicted.

⁷ The lame I will make the remnant,
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
now and forevermore.

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

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always. Amen.