

# 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 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved,  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade  
on your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not smite you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.

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

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others**

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 all who serve you in it.

Loving 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.

**Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

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

**That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

**Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

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 those whose lives are linked with ours.

**May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

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

*The people may add their intercessions silently or aloud.*

Way pray for those killed and their families in the recent shootings in Buffalo, NY and Laguna Woods, CA:

Roberta A. Drury – age 32

Heyward Patterson – age 67

Margus D. Morrison – age 52

Katherine Massey – age 72

Andre Mackneil – age 53

Pearl Young – age 77

Aaron Salter – age 55

Ruth Whitfield – age 86

Geraldine Talley – age 62

John Chen – age 52

Celestine Chaney – age 65

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 Paul's letter to the Ephesians

### **Ephesians 3:16-19**

According to the riches of God's glory, may you be strengthened with might through the Holy Spirit in your inner being, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with the fulness of God.

### **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**

May the stillness of God be yours this night,  
that you may sleep in peace.

May the awareness of angels be yours this night,  
that you may be alert to unseen mysteries.

And may the life of Christ be yours this night,  
that you may be kindled in love. **Amen.**