

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.

Dear God, How can this happen? Again. How can we be no closer to your reign of peace? When will we ever learn? Are these the questions you, too, are asking?

We pray for those who have died by the violence of our fallen world; gather them into your arms and bless them. We pray for the schoolmates, families, friends and communities as they struggle their loss, with the mysteries of life and death; walk with them through the valley of the shadow of death. We pray for those who were witnesses to these horrors, for students, teachers, staff, ordinary citizens and first responders; gently heal the wounds of their minds and spirits. We pray for those who take the life of innocent victims, consumed by a hatred we cannot begin to understand; for your forgiveness that far exceeds any we can find in our hearts. Comfort us in our sadness, stand strong beside us in our fear, use our anger to fuel change, and do not let us give up hope for the day when all shall live in peace and safety. *Amen.*

Adapted from a prayer by The Rev. Betsy Hooper

Please be seated.

Psalm 46

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.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;

**he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**The God 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.

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.

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. Strengthen us as we work for peace and reconciliation
that we may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace
that all may live in freedom and truth.

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 one another and love as he loves us.

God of love, be with those affected by violence and war throughout the world.
Be with them to strengthen and uphold them.

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our prayers, either silently or aloud.
The people may add their intercessions.

Loving God, Jesus gathered your little ones in his arms and blessed them. Have pity on all who mourn for those slaughtered by the violence of our fallen world. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in our pain, bring your comfort, and in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life.

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 Romans

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, not height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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