

PRAYERS AND RESOURCES FOR UKRAINE

#PRAYFORUKRAINE

**TRANSFORMATION
CORNWALL⁺**



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Many of us are wondering what we can do to help as we see the humanitarian tragedy unfold in Ukraine.

When considering how to respond to such heartbreaking circumstances, I am reminded of a passage in Leviticus 19:34 that says, "You must treat the foreigner living among you as native-born and love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God." For those that fled from slavery there was a constant message to not forget where they had come from when determining the future for others. I'm sure many of us don't have to look far back in our own history to discover that we were once immigrants or refugees. My Jewish ancestors emigrated to this country from Poland little over 100 years ago, and I shudder to imagine what would have happened to them if they had stayed.

For the people of God, this reminder meant that the refugee or outsider would become part of their family, supported by the community and never left to be homeless or hungry. In essence this message was one of understanding how linked our past, present and future realities are, adopting Jesus' golden rule: "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

If we want homes and safety in our lives, we must work for and assist those who do not have them; if we want peace in our own country, we must work for peace in places where others do not have it.

This short handout is meant to assist faith groups and individuals in having a similar meaningful response, both in prayer and in how we steward our resources to help others, in particular standing in solidarity with Ukraine.

Christ's message was essentially one of peace and a vision for a peaceful Kingdom in which sorrow, suffering, and strife have no place. As Christians, we must work to make this peace a reality, particularly now, in Ukraine. Please pray for the people of Ukraine, and give as much as you can to those organisations and groups working in the midst of the conflict.

PRAYER 1

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

PRAYER 2

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine
today.

We pray for peace and the laying
down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for
tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would
draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over
war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and
compassion to guide their
decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your
precious children, at risk and in
fear,
that you would hold and protect
them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the
Prince of Peace.

Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

PRAYER 3

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and
protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom
to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of
Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

PRAYER 4

Please God,
in these tragic,
testing and frightening times,
uphold everything that is strong
and loving
in the Ukrainian
and in the Russian
people

Give them
the courage
to survive
and resist
the violence
that has been launched
against Ukraine
and the repression
of those protesting
in Russia
for peace.

May their faith
and your love
uphold them
in their suffering.

Give us
the generosity
to assist them
in whatever ways we can.
The insight to know
how best to bring home
the message
that
violence
begets violence.

The twin challenges
humanity face
are war
and climate change.
They demand
the urgent transformation
of international relations,
from contest and violence
to urgent, meaningful
and transformative
cooperation
for the common good.

Amen

CORNWALL 24/7 PRAYER ROOM FOR UKRAINE



Stevi Phipps and Sarah Yardley of Cornwall have established a 24/7 prayer room to bring together a prayer community dedicated to praying for those in Ukraine and Russia.

The prayer room is operating virtually and you can choose a time slot to dedicate yourself or your group to prayer.

They are particularly praying for world leaders as they make decisions, refugees and all those displaced by war, and for the Spirit of God to triumph over evil.

You can join the prayer room here:

<https://pray.24-7prayer.com/signup/891ac7/>

You can also join the linked Facebook group for sharing prayer requests, prophetic words, and links to other prayer resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/323665486399285/>

HOW CAN WE GIVE?

Alongside our prayers, the best way to help Ukraine is by giving generously to organisations working to alleviate the suffering of those impacted by the crisis.

Whilst some groups initially recommended donating clothes, bedding, and toiletries e.t.c, a number of groups are now moving away from this kind of ask owing to the logistical challenges and high cost of transporting these donations.

If you have donated items, like clothing, blankets or other things, the Red Cross suggests there are lots of ways you can turn things you'd like to donate into money. So for example, sell things on eBay and direct the proceeds to the appeal, or offer items in return for a donation to Ukraine appeals.

It can be tough to know which groups and organisations to donate to. In the first instance, God has generously blessed us, and we want to be good stewards of these gifts by ensuring that all we donate is used appropriately and faithfully

Below we recommend a number of trusted organisations that are really making a difference. While these are not the only organisations doing outstanding work, we feel confident in recommending them as a starting point.



HOW CAN I HELP HUMANITARIAN AID REACH UKRAINE?



The British Red Cross are urgently seeking donations for their Ukraine Humanitarian appeal. They are a part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with fellow Red Cross National Societies in border countries, are working to get vital help to those impacted by this crisis.

Donate here:

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>



As hundreds of thousands of people are forced to escape, Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is working on setting up emergency response activities in Ukraine and deploying teams in Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Teams are also ready to respond in Russia and Belarus.

In Ukraine, MSF teams have distributed war-wounded kits in Mariupol. They have also provided telemedicine training for trauma care for 30 surgeons from eastern Ukraine.

Donate here:

<https://msf.org.uk/secure/donate>

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE REFUGEES THAT HAVE LEFT UKRAINE?

USPG[†] PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION



The Diocese in Europe and USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) have launched a joint emergency appeal to support humanitarian work both in Ukraine and with refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches and agencies carrying out humanitarian work in both in Ukraine and organisations responding to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries.

Donate here:

<https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

HOW CAN MY CHURCH HELP?



Sanctuary Foundation is a new initiative set up by Dr Krish Kandiah, alongside his ongoing work to support Syrian and Afghan refugees.

They are leading a rapid response initiative to find churches and individuals to sponsor Ukrainian refugees coming to the UK. Sponsors will help in a number of ways, including befriending and welcoming Ukrainian families into local communities.

At this stage they are looking for community groups, churches, schools, and businesses to register their interest in becoming a sponsor when the scheme is developed. Declaring your interest will greatly assist the development and acceleration of this vital provision for Ukrainian refugees.

Find out more here: <https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>

HOW CAN I HELP REFUGEES IN CORNWALL?



Could you offer temporary shelter to someone forced to flee their country who does not have the means to support themselves? If so, you could be a host with Room for Refugees.

Room for refugees is a refugee hosting network. Their vision since 2002 has been to connect those with a spare room to refugees and asylum seekers in needing somewhere to stay.

As a refugee host you decide how long you can offer a spare room or property, according to your circumstances. They screen all referrals to ensure a safe match for hosts offering a room or home.

<https://www.roomforrefugees.com/>

**Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they will be
called children
of God**

Matthew 5:9

