

# ST. PHILIP'S MILFORD PRAYER CIRCLE



## Prayers for Peace in Ukraine Thursday, March 10, 2022

The fear felt by older Ukrainians is a fear of decades past. For many younger Ukrainians, this is a new fear and a sorrowful time of displacement, uncertainty and vulnerability. Today we offer our prayers for peace in Ukraine. We pray God works in the hearts of the surrounding nations to continue welcoming Ukrainian refugees. Pray that global strategies apply maximum pressure on Russia to cease this evil and violent attack. We pray for peace.

**READER: Lord, we centre ourselves, in preparation to pray:**

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)*

Almighty God, we thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, we thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. We thank you for your great love and care. We thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and everlasting life. Forgive us for when we don't acknowledge you in our lives, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We give you praise and thanks, for you alone are worthy. We offer this prayer in your son, our saviour's name.

**TOGETHER:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Our Psalm today is number 29, The Voice of God in a Great Storm:**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,

**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;

**worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,**

**the LORD, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the LORD is powerful;

**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

**the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

**and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

**the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;

**and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

**the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the LORD give strength to his people!

**May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

**ALL God of mystery, and power, open our eyes to the flame of your love, and open our ears to the thunder of your justice, that we may receive your gifts of blessing and peace, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

**READER: Our Gospel for today is from John, Chapter 14:**

**TOGETHER: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**TOGETHER: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**READER: Lord, we pray for Peace in Ukraine:**

God, we pray fervently for the people of Ukraine. The situation they now face is not a new one. The name Ukraine translates to "borderland," and this nation has been viewed for centuries as just that - a bordering land waiting to be conquered.

This nation and its people have seen struggles with Russia for a century, and over 13,000 have already died in the small-scale war that has been raging in the southwestern area of Ukraine since 2014. They are a resilient people who live in a volatile area of the world that has seen regular war and upheaval. Yet Jesus walked the earth in similar circumstances: plagued by oppression and a ruthless empire.

Your word promises in Isaiah 26:3 that, “you keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” We ask that the people of Ukraine may be safe, secure, and that they would know not only peace on earth but your true and unwavering peace<sup>1</sup>.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, the people who remain in Ukraine:**

Lord, we can only imagine in dismay, the horror of those living in Ukraine, in seeing their homeland, their city or town, their neighbourhood, their street, being bombed and invaded. We can only imagine the fright of losing power, and not knowing when it will come back on. And the fear that your source of power might be the source of your death and a nuclear disaster. We cannot conceive what it is like for the people of Ukraine to live in fear of leaving their homes for grocery shopping or going to work. We can only imagine the strength it takes for one to remain in their home, knowing that their life and the lives of their friends, neighbours, and even strangers passed in the streets, are in such great danger.

We can only imagine how frightening it must be for the people, the men, who just weeks ago were plumbers, IT specialists, lawyers, civil servants, retail workers, ordinary people getting on with their lives, who are now bearing arms to protect their homes, their country, to protect their freedom.

We can only imagine the fear of loss, death and brokenness, as they say goodbye to their families, and go to war – a war they have no part to play except to defend their homeland.

Almighty God, look down with your merciful eye upon the sorrow and great painful cry of your children, abiding in the Ukrainian land. Deliver your people from civil strife, cease the spilling of blood, and turn back the hardships that have been set against them.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, people as they leave Ukraine:**

Most gracious Father, we can only imagine the heartbreak of the people of Ukraine who had to leave their homes. We can only imagine the process of deciding what to bring along and what to leave behind. Of not knowing where you will be going. Of not knowing for how long. Or if you will ever see your home, your belongings, your friends and family in your city, town or neighbourhood, again. Not knowing what to do with your pets. And not knowing if you will see your husband, or brother, or father, or uncle or friends, staying behind to fight this unprovoked war. Possibly to never see them again.

We pray Father, that as the people travel to places unknown to them but towards protection from the war, that their passage become and remain safe corridors. We pray they find food and shelter along their journey, that they find comfort in your love and the love shown to them through the kindness and care of others. We pray they find equity, compassion and civility, no matter who they are or where they are from.

Father, bless all who seek refuge on this earth. Meet their needs for safety and for home. Move the hearts of your people to show them welcome. Cause wars to cease and bring justice to the nations that no one will need to flee again.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

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<sup>1</sup> Jason Soroski, crosswalk.com

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, your protection of displaced people:**

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape violence and war. Help us by your grace, to welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs. To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us. To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one most Holy Trinity, in whom we make our prayer.

And Lord Jesus, give us more of your compassion for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf. We pray for an end to this war that is driving desperate people to become refugees in the first place. We pray that those who wish can return to their homes and begin to rebuild their lives.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those who are helping the displaced:**

Dear Lord, there are many assisting those who are leaving Ukraine. And many are doing so in your name, answering your call to "feed my sheep". In this disastrous and challenging situation, we are comforted knowing that people worldwide are gathering and offering prayers for Ukraine. Our prayers are for the many people who are taking action to assist the people of Ukraine and Russia who have left their home country for the protection of themselves and their families. We thank you Lord for the people opening their homes to provide safe harbour. We thank you Lord for those providing food to the Ukrainians waiting to cross a border. We thank you Lord for those meeting the trains, offering hospitality to Ukrainians leaving their homes and their country. We are encouraged by the many selfless acts of kindness. We thank you Lord for those opening their homes in Western Ukraine, to those leaving the East. We thank you Lord for Canadian immigration, simplifying the process for immigration to Canada.

At this time, please add any other initiatives we should pray for.....

Dear Lord, please give them strength when they are weak, love when they feel forsaken, courage when they feel afraid, wisdom when they make a mistake, comfort when they feel alone, hope when they feel rejected, and peace when they are in turmoil.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those who have died due to this war:**

Dear Lord, hear our prayers for all those who will die today, and all who have died, because of war in Ukraine. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in you. We also uphold in prayer those who will die today in other war-torn countries all over this world, those only known to you.

O God, we commend to you all who suffer in this time of war; the wounded, the sick; the prisoners; the homeless; the hungry; the oppressed; the anxious, the frightened, and the bereaved. Strengthen them, O Lord, with our Holy Spirit, and give them support from around the world.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, people on both sides of the border:**

Dear Lord, we know this is not a new conflict. We know that this dispute has continued for years. We pray that Ukraine and Russia would be places of peace, not corruption. Of harmony, not upheaval and battle. We pray for the people who only want to participate in their future, to support their families and raise their children, to be productive members of their society, to live in peace.

At this time, please add any other matters we should pray for.....

Lord, we pray that the leaders and governing bodies of Ukraine and Russia know the truth of your peace, and through the transforming love of your Son, through the Holy Spirit, seek to lead their countries in the way of peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, our world leaders:**

Lord, we know peace is so much more than the absence of war. We know that peace is a gift, and it is also a decision. It is a gift that must be received. It is a decision that can be difficult to realize. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. Peace comes into being by seeking justice, to loving as we are loved by you.

Dear Lord, we pray that the world's leaders speak up against this unprovoked war. We pray they pay heed to the needs of the hour and value, above all else, their obligation to ensure the peace and stability of the world. We pray for their commitment and persistence in the knowledge that peace is still possible. We pray world leaders, at work to pull the world back from this brink.

We pray for the NATO leaders, as they continue to support Ukraine in this place of tension, and to work to lessen the risk of expanding the war. We pray for presidents Biden, Putin and Zelenskyy, that together they may find a way to peace, and acknowledge that their citizens are the ones who are most impacted by this continuing conflict.

We pray all those involved in this conflict do everything they can to immediately end the hostilities, return to the negotiating table, to protect all human life. We know that another way is possible.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, peace in Ukraine:**

We commend to your merciful care the people and government of Ukraine, that, being guided by your providence, they may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to their leaders and all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve their people.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: AMEN**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart in the nations of the world, that working and witnessing together, we may live in justice and peace and change the hearts of those who would make for conflict and war.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, all your people:**

We pray for our world, for all its cares and needs, and for all who lead us and care for us.

We pray for those displaced from their home, their family and livelihood, due to war and struggles for power within their countries.

We pray for refugees and migrants, for all who have emigrated to new countries and those trying to improve the lives and livelihood for themselves and their families.

We pray for all homeless people, that they may receive the support required and for their needs to be met.

We pray for anyone dealing with mental health issues, substance dependency and abuse, for those experiencing physical, emotional or verbal abuse, for all who are sick at heart, lonely, living on their own, or feeling forgotten.

And we pray for all those who are afraid in these anxious times.

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth into a single peace. Let the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts.

We pray this through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, your church:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you."

Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever.

Therefore, with confidence and trust, let us pray for our one holy, catholic and apostolic Church:

We pray for Linda Nicholls, Primate of Canada, Anne Germond, our Metropolitan, and Mark McDonald, our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop. We pray for our Diocesan Bishop, Michael Oulton, our regional dean, The Right Rev. Richard Hetke.

We pray for our Incumbent, Canon Nancy Beale. We pray for Paula, our lay reader, Sally, our Organist, and for our wardens Sally and Josef. We pray for the wardens and the people St. John's as they continue their discernment of their future ministry and mission. We pray for our Vestry Meeting. Be with us in our desire to chart a course together, inspired by the presence of your Spirit. Give us courage as we move forward with your blessing, for all we do, we do to your glory.

And we pray for the congregations of St. Philip's and St. John's, preserve our physical and mental health as we seek to serve you faithfully.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety; we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed; we are people of generosity. We are your people O God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes wherever you call us<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Barbara Glasson President of the Methodist Conference

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those asking for our prayers;**

Almighty and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad and the strength of those who suffer, hear the prayers of your people who are ill, suffer, or are in any trouble. Grant to everyone in distress mercy, relief, and refreshment.

We hold before you those who are in need of prayer. (silence)

Loving God, we pray that you will comfort all who are suffering, lend skill to the hands of their healers, and bless the means used for their cure. Give them such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when they are afraid, they may put their whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those who have died and are grieving**

Let us pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those who are Incarcerated**

God of Love and Judgment. God of Love and Redemption. We pray for those who live and work behind concrete walls, chain link fences and barbed wire. Keep them in good health and spirit. Help both the prisoner and the jailer to do the tasks before them with grace and compassion. Help both the prisoner and the jailer to see one another as human beings created in your own image. And protect both the prisoner and the jailer from those who would do them harm.

We pray this in the name of Jesus who showed us how to love those who have done wrong against us.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

**READER: Lord, in closing we uphold to you in prayer, the people of Ukraine:**

Holy and Gracious God, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we pray this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL:**

**AMEN**

Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

**TOGETHER: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever,**

**AMEN**