



Prayers for Ukraine
April 21, 2022 6:30pm

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, Los Osos

Prelude: Ich ruf zu dir, Herr/I call to Thee, Lord J.S. Bach arr. Ferruccio Busoni
Pianist: Ann Lucas

Opening:

Christians in Ukraine and Russia begin their Sunday worship with these words,
“In peace, let us pray to the Lord.”

Now, as we join our hearts with them:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, you said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” We join our prayers to those of the people of Ukraine, who look to God for peace and protection during this time of violence and oppression. We ask for your mercy and love, that it may change the hearts and minds of those who have chosen the path of destruction.

Knowing that war will only bring suffering and death, we ask you to bring about reconciliation between the peoples of Ukraine and Russia. And together with them, we pray

... for the peace of the whole world...for every city and land...[and] for our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity...Amen.

<https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/prayers-for-ukraine/>

Wildpeace by Yehuda Amichai

Not the peace of a cease-fire
not even the vision of the wolf and the lamb,
but rather
as in the heart when the excitement is over
and you can talk only about a great weariness.
I know that I know how to kill, that makes me an adult.
And my son plays with a toy gun that knows
how to open and close its eyes and say Mama.
A peace
without the big noise of beating swords into ploughshares,
without words, without
the thud of the heavy rubber stamp: let it be
light, floating, like lazy white foam.
A little rest for the wounds - who speaks of healing?
(And the howl of the orphans is passed from one generation
to the next, as in a relay race:
the baton never falls.)

Let it come
like wildflowers,
suddenly, because the field
must have it: wildpeace.

Silence

A Reading from Ephesians 2:13-18

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

A Time of Silent Prayer

Please pray for everyone involved in this conflict, sending peace, love and light

Litany for Ukraine

God, we are heartbroken for our Ukrainian siblings

For all who are suffering,

For all who are displaced,

For all who are fighting,

For all who are dying,

For all who are fearful,

For all who are resolute,

For all who feel hopeless.

We are sad and sick at heart

That war has once again been waged on innocents, on anyone.

We lament and mourn this tragedy

And commit to lending our strength and love to those in the fight,

Even as we ask for all bloodshed to cease.

As Christ has shamed violence, so do we.

We ask for a quick resolution to this war and an end to this invasion.

We ask for peace and safety for all Ukrainians.

We ask for wise and bold leaders who are clever, creative, and committed to the good of all.

We ask for peace on the European continent.

We ask for, and enact with our bodies, a world where war and aggression are never an option.

We ask for true justice and peace to reign over all the earth.

Thwart the bloodthirsty and power-hungry, O God.

Deny the greedy.

Lay waste to the plans of the wicked.

Confuse the minds of evil-doers.

Somehow, we know we must love Ukraine's enemy with them.

Somehow, we must tap into the compassion of God for these invaders.

Somehow, we know we must embody the peace and forgiveness of Christ.

Somehow, we must not let evil win the day. Help us.

Oh God, war brings us to the very ends of ourselves -

The edges of our own humanity;

It takes us so far that we have no choice but to remember our divinity,

If we are to continue in Love at all.

Christ left his peace with us,

Now let humanity take hold of it. Amen

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
 *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
 when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the
 Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
 Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The

**Alternate text*

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Blessing

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short; grace to risk something big for something good; and grace to remember the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love. And may the blessing of God the All-Compassionate, Author, Christ and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

Amen

Thank you for coming this evening. Your donation here or on our website
<https://www.stbenslososos.org/support-us/> will be sent to churches in Poland
 who are supporting refugees from Ukraine.

Or you may wish to donate through Episcopal Relief and Development,
<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 6877, Los Osos, CA 93412
www.stbenslososos.org, 805-528-0654, office@stbenslososos.org