



Call to Prayer and Action for Ukraine

Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 6:00-7:00PM UK TIME

LITURGY FOR OUR CALL TO PRAYER AND ACTION FOR UKRAINE

The zoom will open for 5 minutes before we start during which we will keep silence. If you light a candle make sure we can see it.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 11:3

Context: As we watch or experience with horror and agony the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine let us remember that we are not without hope or help. We gather to weep, lament and pray for the devastating situation and untold human suffering in Ukraine today. May we together light a candle of hope and perseverance in our hearts as we pray together.

Briefing: We welcome our brother from Ukraine to brief us on the situation and to alert us to any ways in which we can help. (15 Minutes)

Prayer:

We remind ourselves that God is not far off and that we have access into his holy and loving presence. In each section we invite you to unmute, and to say short prayers out loud and to conclude them with: Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept for 2 minutes.

We pray for the refugees fleeing for their lives, leaving husbands and fathers, sons and brothers behind, and in particular for the elderly, the infirm, the disabled and the animals. Jesus, your parents were refugees in Egypt because of a ruthless ruler like Putin. Look with mercy on all those leaving their homes and fleeing at this time. Grant that they may experience hospitality like yours in the countries they flee to.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord, you taught us to pray “Hallowed be your name.” We know that your name in your world is brought into disrepute by this evil invasion. And so we ask that you would intervene to stop this evil and to bring peace so that your reputation might be enhanced in Ukraine and in Russia, and in the rest of your world.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord you appoint leaders to be your servants. We pray for Volodymyr Zelensky and his colleagues. We pray for the Territorial Army of Ukraine. Thank you for their extraordinary courage and that of the Ukrainian people. Sustain them in this dark hour and give them wisdom and courage and what they need to defeat the oppressor. Hear O Lord the cry of the Ukrainian people at this time, even as you did to the Israelites in Egypt so many years ago.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord you tell us to pray for our enemies. And so we pray for Vladimir Putin, his colleagues, the generals of the Russian army, the oligarchs, and all who support and enable this dreadful invasion. Bring them to their senses, confront them with their accountability, and lead them to repentance.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord we pray for your people in Ukraine. Pierce the darkness with your light and give them hope amidst the horrors, and peace amidst the anxiety. Make them, and us, instruments of your peace.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord we pray for the church in Russia and the Russian people. Awaken the Russian Orthodox church to its prophetic calling, help Russian Christians to find ways to be salt and light at this time and to show solidarity with their Ukrainian neighbours, let the truth about what is going on in Ukraine find its way to the people of Russia.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord we pray for our western and world leaders. Thank you that this horror appears to have roused western leaders from their slumber and complacency. Give President Biden, Prime Minister Johnson, and the leaders of the EU and allied countries resolve, wisdom and perseverance in working together to combat this threat.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us to remain at peace in you amidst this terror. Help us to pray without ceasing, and to be ready and alert to ways we can help in this struggle.

... opportunity for short prayers – remember to unmute

Finally we pray again that you would hear our prayer Lord, lest your reputation be damaged in your world. Show to the world that it is you and not a Russian despot that holds the world in your hands.

Silence is kept for 2 minutes.

Benediction

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note that we will stay online for 15 minutes for any further discussion and prayer.