



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

An Ecumenical
Service of Prayer

13th March 2022
at 2:00pm

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, *BWV 731* *J. S. Bach*

Poem *Prayer* by Lyuba Yakimchuk
Please stand

Hymn #362 Tell Out My Soul *Woodlands*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

The Greeting

Officiant: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
 be with you.

All: And also with you.

Officiant: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Officiant: We gather today to hear and receive God's holy word and to pray for the needs of
the world, remembering especially the people of Ukraine. We gather with the
jarring images of the waste and ruin of war in Ukraine, to honour the people of

that war-shattered landscape and pray for peace in their land. We honour those who have died; those who are showing great courage and loyalty to their country; those who are seeing unspeakable sights of bodies broken; those whose minds are numbed by the noise of bombardment, and those whose eyes have seen the sadness of weeping and frightened faces. For all who are engaged in combat, those who tend the maimed and injured, the fallen, and for those families who now hold the memories of deceased fighters, we ask for God's mercy, and for ourselves, the grace to give ourselves in service to God's people in Ukraine and to keep them in our hearts and prayers.

One minute silence

Confession and Absolution

Officiant: In light of the invasion and atrocities in Ukraine, it is easy for us to be self-righteous, as we point fingers at the evil-doers, so as we name and confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds, let us also confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for all God's children. Let us kneel to pray.

All: O God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you. Yet always in the midst of this creation-glory, we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness: around us in the earth, sea and sky, beside us in the broken, the hungry and the poor, the betrayal and abuse of one another; and often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit. We have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

O Trinity of love, in your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be that we may do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with you, and be makers of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant: May the God of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Peace

Please stand

Officiant: 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.

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Officiant: Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the waters of chaos, you drew forth the world
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light, ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn #578 O Healing River

Healing River

O healing river, send down your waters,
send down your waters upon this land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
and wash the blood from off the sand.

This land is parching, this land is burning,
no seed is growing in the barren ground.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish,
let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, from out of the skies.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Please sit

Psalm 35, Selected verses

Leader: Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! Take hold of shield and buckler and rise up to help me!

All: Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life. Let them be turned back and confounded who devise evil against me.

Leader: For without cause, they hid their net for me; without cause, they dug a pit for my life. Let ruin come on them unawares. And let the net that they hid ensnare them; let them fall in it—to their ruin.

All: Then my soul shall rejoice in the LORD, exulting in his deliverance. All my bones shall say, “O LORD, who is like you? You deliver the weak from those too strong for them, the weak and needy from those who despoil them.”

Leader: Then I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you.

All: Do not let my treacherous enemies rejoice over me, or those who hate me without cause wink the eye.

Leader: For they do not speak peace, but they conceive deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land.

All: Vindicate me, O LORD, my God, according to your righteousness, and do not let them rejoice over me.

Leader: Do not let them say to themselves, “Aha, we have our heart’s desire.” Do not let them say, “We have swallowed you up.”

All: Let all those who rejoice at my calamity be put to shame and confusion; let those who exalt themselves against me be clothed with shame and dishonour.

Leader: Let those who desire my vindication shout for joy and be glad, and say evermore, “Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant.” Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all day long.

1st Lesson James 3:13-18 (*Read in Ukrainian*)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Anthem Grant us Thy Peace

Felix Mendelssohn

*Grant us thy peace, Almighty God,
Thou source of ev'ry blessing.
Feeble and frail, trust we thy word,
all things in thee possessing.
In thee is our hope and safety.*

2nd Lesson Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Homily

Piano Solo Grande Valse Brillante, in A minor, Opus 39 #2

Chopin

THE PRAYERS

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand

Officiant: In the midst of hunger and war

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.

Officiant: In the midst of oppression and tyranny

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of service and freedom.

Officiant: In the midst of doubt and despair

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

Officiant: In the midst of fear and betrayal

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.

Officiant: In the midst of hatred and death

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of love and life.

Officiant: In the midst of sin and decay

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.

Officiant: In the midst of death on every side

All: We believe and celebrate the promise of the living Christ. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Please remain standing

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war and ask that God may give us peace: for the men and women who have died in the violence of the invasion of Ukraine, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: For all members of the Ukrainian and Russian armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: For all who bear the privilege and burden of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

Leader: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish to harm others; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: God of mercy, by whose grace
in all who suffer is Christ crucified,
we pray for the people of Ukraine who live in danger.
They are a people who know oppression, injustice and fear,
whose land has been invaded,
and whose home is unsafe.
Be with them and shelter them in your love;
give them courage and hope;
enfold them in your grace.
Touch their wounds; heal their trauma.
May the strength of the earth be theirs,
the freedom of the sky, the peace of the trees.
We bear in our hearts all who are afraid.
May they bear our love in theirs, for we are one.
In the unity of your Holy Spirit
you hold us together as one humanity,
one world, one body, one hope.
May your peace change the hearts
of those who misuse power.
And may the peace of Christ
be with us all.

All: Amen.

*The funds collected during this hymn will be donated to The Red Cross.
The Government of Canada will match Red Cross donations up to a maximum of \$10M,
to support the people of Ukraine who are affected by the war.*

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead your people into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice,
may we hallow life's brief span

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

THE LEAVING

Act of Commitment

Officiant: Let us pledge ourselves to the service of God, committing to help, encourage, and comfort others in need, and support those working for freedom from war and strife.

All: **God of grace and love, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace: for the relief of want and suffering, for the welfare of the nations and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage, give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

Officiant: O God our light and our defence,
breathe your gentle Spirit over the wastes of our world.
Protect our memories from the infection of hate,
that we may live free from fear and resentment.
May the light of Christ lead us
out of the valley of the shadow of death
onto paths of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace
for the sake of the world your Son came to save.

All: Amen.

Officiant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray
All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Officiant: God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humanity, peace and concord; and to us and all your servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you, preserve us from all evil and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #575 Let Streams of Living Justice

Thaxted

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth.
Give freedom's light to captives; let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights,
The mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power.
Abolish ancient vengeance; proclaim your people's hour.

For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end.
For love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together: knit our lives as they are spun.
On your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one.
Dye our texture with your radiance, light our colours with your sun.

Your city's built for music: we are the stones you seek.
Your harmony is language: we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams.
Our love in hand of neighbour: our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way – the path untried:
Your truth – the heart of stranger, your life – the Crucified.

Postlude The Ukrainian National Anthem *Mykhailo Verbytsky arr by Vidas Pinevicius*



“Prayer” was written by Lyuba Yakimchuk, a contemporary Ukrainian poet who was born in the conflict-ridden Donbas region in 1985. She wrote this poem after her community was embroiled in conflict with Russia in 2014. Sadly, the war poem of that time is still relevant today. Before the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, Lyuba Yakimchuk and her husband attended civilian military training, stocked up on food and installed an electric generator. They plan to stay in Kyiv to donate blood for Ukrainian soldiers and ‘try to be helpful.’

This Liturgy has been offered to the glory of God
and for peace in Ukraine by the communities of
Calvin Presbyterian Church
Christ Church Deer Park Anglican Church
Deer Park United Church
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Officiating Clergy:

The Reverend Canon Cheryl Palmer, *Christ Church Deer Park*
The Reverend Msgr. James Hannah, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
The Reverend Deborah Hart, *Deer Park Untied*

Preacher:

The Reverend Dr. Peter Holmes, *Yorkminster Park Baptist*

Readers:

The Reverend Paula Willis, *Yorkminster Park Baptist*
Isabelle Gibb, *Deer Park Untied*
Danylo Dzwonyk, *Christ Church Deer Park*
Ali McIntosh, *Christ Church Deer Park*

Intercessor:

Joanne Stewart, *Calvin Presbyterian*

Musicians:

Nicholas Wanstall, *Christ Church Deer Park*
William Maddox, *Yorkminster Park Baptist*
Helena Bowkun, *Yorkminster Park Baptist*

Singers, *Christ Church Deer Park*:

Julia Barber
Sonya Harper Nyby
Ryan Downey
Peter Warren

Singers, *Yorkminster Park Baptist*:

Jessica Willingham
Margaret Terry
Michael Johnston
Anthony Varahidis
Lutzen Riedstra
Stephen King