

Global day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in Ukraine

This prayer guide has been created for the Global Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in Ukraine. It contains prayer points that can be used for personal and group prayer when praying for the unfolding crisis.

When faced with a large-scale situation, it can be difficult to know how to pray. We've found it helpful to use a simple model of praying for 3 Ps. This guide will focus on:

- 1. The Problem:** We ask God to intervene in challenging and difficult circumstances, and for God's kingdom to break out.
- 2. People affected:** We ask God to comfort those who've suddenly found their lives torn apart by grief, fear and trauma, and those acting to help those in need.
- 3. Peacemakers and politicians:** We ask God to give clarity and wisdom to government agencies and peacemakers, blessing and supporting their efforts to bring peace, breakthrough and lasting solutions.

Suggestions for praying through this guide

- Set three alarms on your phone: morning, afternoon and evening, and pray for the sections in turn
- If you're able and choose to fast food, pray for the three sections during your regular mealtimes
- Gather a group of friends, family or small group members to pray online or in-person together
- Organise an hour of prayer as a church or community to pray through this guide

SECTION 1

The Problem

Pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war:

- Pray that troops from Russia will withdraw; that attacks on cities and towns will cease; for a de-escalation of the crisis
- Invite God's peace to reign across Ukraine; for miraculous breakthroughs to bring an end to war
- Ask for God's protection for all people; that there will be minimal loss of life

Personal Prayer

Reflect on Psalm 46, reading it slowly a couple of times.

Ask God to highlight one word or phrase to shape your prayers for peace:

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46 (NIVUK)

Group Prayer

In person

Play some worship music and split the group in half, so that half of the group are worshipping, and half of the group are praying.

After a few minutes, swap over.

Online

Read Psalm 46 as a group. Before you begin ask God to highlight a word or phrase to each of you.

Pause, and begin taking it in turns to pray for peace in Ukraine, using the phrases of the Psalm to shape your prayers.

SECTION 2

The People

Pray for the many people whose lives have been impacted by this crisis:

- For God's safety, shelter and protection for those who are living in Ukraine, those who are being or are displaced, and for refugees as they seek safe passage to other nations
- Pray for God's healing for those wounded by attacks, and comfort for those who are mourning the loss of those they love
- For capacity and resilience for soldiers and emergency services; those with practical skills who are working on the frontlines of both sides of the crisis.
- Pray for those living in Russia who have also been plunged into the reality of war; who are now facing uncertainty, financial insecurity and hardship.

Personal Prayer

Use a piece of paper or page in your journal and divide it into four equal sections. Write or draw words and declarations for each of the people groups and prayer points.

Group Prayer

In person

Label the prayer points as A, B, C and D, and split into groups of 4. Allocate one prayer point to each person, and then give time for each in turn, with those praying for prayer point A to pray first, then B, and so on.

Online

Share the prayer points out between the group, and then either pray on mute all at the same time, or unmuted, one at a time.

For larger online groups, you could follow the steps for in person and place people into breakout rooms, asking people to label themselves A, B, C and D.

SECTION 3

The Politicians and Peacemakers

Pray for world leaders and those who are striving for peace in Ukraine:

- Invite God's breakthrough in talks between Russia and Ukraine; that a peaceful solution will be proposed and accepted.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for world leaders as they try to find peaceful and long-term solutions to this crisis
- Ask for supernatural assistance and breakthrough for diplomats and peacemakers who are working behind the scenes, guiding and working to create solutions.

Personal prayer

Adopt a different posture as you cry out to God for change and for peace: raise your hands, stand up, or kneel down.

Group prayer

In person

Split the room into different areas for prayer and invite people to walk around the different areas as they feel led.

You might like to put some newspapers in different sections, or articles about the different politicians and peacemakers involved.

Online

Invite everyone to spend a few minutes reading news articles about the politicians and peacemakers involved in this crisis, then invite everyone to unmute and pray out loud all at the same time; speaking in tongues, or simply inviting the Holy Spirit.

Additional resources

Pray for the world guides on 24-7 Prayer.com

www.24-7prayer.com/how-to-pray/help-me/pray-for-the-world

A Prayer for the crisis in Ukraine by Pete Greig

www.24-7prayer.com/a-prayer-for-the-crisis-in-ukraine

Pray for Ukraine with Lectio 365

24-7 Prayer's free app contains two devotionals to pray through the Ukraine situation on Friday 25 February and Wednesday 2 March:

www.24-7prayer.com/lectio365