

Pray for Peace in Ukraine

60 Minute Prayer Guide

This guide takes: 60 minutes (but can be adapted for your own needs. If you are leading a group, you may want to take longer.)

This guide is for: Individuals and Groups

You'll need: A Bible, candle and matches (or an electric tealight), paper, scissors, tape/glue, a torch/lamp/phone with torch functionality

This prayer guide has been created to help you pray for Ukraine as an individual, family, or group.

Pause

10 MINUTES

Be still and welcome God's presence.

You might like to sit somewhere comfortable and take a few deep breaths, or pray a simple, short prayer such as "God, I welcome your presence" or "Come, Holy Spirit."

Pray through Psalm 46

You might like to use a Bible translation you feel comfortable with. Read the whole Psalm out loud once or twice, before using it to form the basis of your prayers.

Rejoice and Reflect

10 MINS

Rejoice and Praise God

You could invite the Holy Spirit to remind you of moments of God's love, faithfulness and goodness. You might like to play or listen to your favourite worship music, or write down your prayers of thanks.

Reflect on the qualities of God that the Bible proclaims

You could look up the Bible verses below, or choose qualities that are meaningful to you in this present moment. You could write your reflections and thanksgiving on paper or in a journal.

God is our protector (Psalm 5:11)

God is our strength (Psalm 28:7)

God is our rock (Psalm 18:2)

God is our refuge (Psalm 46:1)

God is our redeemer (Psalm 19:14)

Ask

30 MINS

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.

The prompts below contain creative ideas to help you pray in different ways for peace in Ukraine. You might like to work through all of them, or spend extra time focusing on just one or two areas.

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

Creative prayer activity

Light a candle and take a moment to focus on the light of Christ. As you focus on the light and peace that Jesus brings, begin to speak out prayers of peace over the crisis in Ukraine.

You could declare Bible verses as prayer or pray for ceasefire; for peace talks; for peace in the hearts of those who are afraid. Give space for the Holy Spirit to prompt and guide your prayers, and pray peace into whatever God brings to your mind when thinking about the conflict.

Group Prayer (optional)

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, especially those living under Russian occupation.
- For those who are being or are displaced: for refugees as they seek safe passage to other nations and for the families who, at this point, have settled in foreign countries - for comfort, provision, and opportunities to grow.
- 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.

Creative prayer activity

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'"

Psalms 91:1-2, NIV

With a light (this could be a lamp, a phone torch, or a light in your house) place something in front of it to cast a shadow.

In the shadow place a piece of paper, and write the names of people or places in Ukraine you are praying for protection over; that they might rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You could also draw a map or write prayers of protection within the shadow cast.

Group Prayer

In person

Label the prayer points as A, B, C, D, and E. Go around the room and assign each person A, B, C, D or E. Have all the As gather, all the Bs gather and so on, and pray in your groups for your prayer point.

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, D and E.

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.
- Pray for generosity and wisdom in the leaders of nations and aid charities as they make key decisions about what resources should go into supporting the people affected by this war.

Creative prayer activity

Take coloured paper, scissors and tape or glue. Using a template, cut out shapes in the form of people and write prayers for the people who are affected by the war; those who are refugees, those handling the refugee crisis; those staying in the country and those facing war.

As you write the prayers, begin creating a prayer chain of people by linking them together by their arms. You could pray for unity across all people as you do this

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.

Yield

10 MINS

Invite God's kingdom to come and will to be done with this prayer written by Pete Greig*:

Father God, King of all nations, I cry out to you now for the people of Ukraine. I ask you to rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before you all their days [Luke 1:74-75].

Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

Lord of lords and Prince of peace, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and I simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy [James 3:17].

Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

Holy Spirit, I pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. Give my many brothers and sisters in that nation courage in this crisis that they may proclaim the good news of your kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn. [Isaiah 61:1-2].

Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

You Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so I ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. Make a peace that is strong and not weak. De-escalate this crisis. I hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. My hope is in you. And so I address the nations now. In the name of Jesus I say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; he shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10].

Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Amen

*Adapted from the original:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/a-prayer-for-the-crisis-in-ukraine/>