

Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Prayers for Peace

A pastoral letter, published on 24 February 2022 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York has been warmly commended by the Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner.

In it, the Archbishops condemn the "evil" attack by Russia on Ukraine and invite all Christians to join them in prayer.

The Archbishops say: "As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world. We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too."

Specifically, the Archbishops have asked people to join them to do three things:

- Make this **Sunday, 27 February**, a day of prayer for peace;
- On **Tuesday 1 March** at 6pm (GMT) to pray with the Diocese in Europe for the chaplaincy in Kyiv and the churches that serve Ukraine; and
- To participate with the wider church in Pope Francis's call to make **Ash Wednesday, 2 March**, a day of prayer and fasting for peace.

Bishop Mark welcomed the Archbishops' letter and is urging all in the Diocese of Chester to join with the Archbishops in praying for the evolving situation in Ukraine. He has written to all clergy to share the Archbishops' invitation and has also asked that **churches ring their bells on Tuesday 1 March at 6 pm "as an audible expression of our standing with sisters and brothers in prayer, fellowship, witness, and compassion."**

Bishop Mark also shared the Archbishops' letter and the liturgical resources on Twitter, saying: "Let's cry out faithfully to God for all caught up in this conflict."

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



A Prayer for the Peace of the World

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace;
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chester Cathedral

A prayer and support for involved in the conflicts in Ukraine and Russia

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid – John 14.27

God of mercy and grace, we pray for the people of the Ukraine and Russia, and those who suffer at this desperate time. Be with those whose homes and livelihoods are threatened, and all who fear for the future. Give wisdom to the Leaders of the World, to have patience, wisdom and courage to stand up to the evil of War, so that swords be turned into ploughshares and faith will lead all to peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

This prayer will be offered at Evensong each day

