

Welcome to
St. John's Episcopal Church
Chula Vista, CA

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace

March 18, 2022
6:00 pm



Please contribute to the Ukrainian relief services as guided by your own denomination

*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here!*

Opening Song

Let There be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With

God as our Fa - ther, chil - dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow; To

take each mo - ment, and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly!

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

Text and music: Sy Miller, 1906-1971, and Jill Jackson, 1913-1995, © 1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Salutation

Presider Bless the Lord who is the Prince of Peace.

People ***His peace shall endure for ever.***

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

Most gracious and loving God, our hearts are heavy with concern over the crisis between Russia and the Ukraine.

We pray that the world might be attentive and work diligently to prevent war between two sovereign nations who each have their perspective on their right to exist and what that means.

We pray that your wisdom might penetrate human hearts in order that there is a greater value placed upon human life than national pride.

We pray that the leaders of both nations might seek diplomacy, rather than war. Words over weapons. Truth over propaganda. For true diplomacy involves compromise and determination to do that which is right and just for all.

Bless and be with those who did not sleep well last night, concerned about what the new day might bring. Concern over the wellbeing of their children and elderly parents who won't be able to get out of danger's way. Concern for the destruction of everything they know and care about: their way of life, their culture, their independence, their homes, and their faith.

Most just God, you call for acts of justice and peace, not only on the part of your people, but of nations as well.

Let people of faith around the world lift their voices to you for peace now and forevermore, in Ukraine and all around the world.

Wherever people are divided by nationality, ethnicity, race, class, or anything that dares to separate us, bring forth your spirit of peace, that we may study war no more.

In your holy and just name, Amen.

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins,

Associate Director of Advocacy for the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministries

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 2:2-4

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 140 *Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies* (please respond where bold)

Deliver me, O LORD, from evildoers;

protect me from those who are violent,

who plan evil things in their minds

and stir up wars continually.

They make their tongue sharp as a snake's,

and under their lips is the venom of vipers.

Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;

protect me from the violent

who have planned my downfall.

The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,

and with cords they have spread a net,

along the road they have set snares for me.

I say to the LORD, "You are my God;

give ear, O LORD, to the voice of my supplications."

O LORD, my Lord, my strong deliverer,

you have covered my head in the day of battle.

Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;

do not further their evil plot.

Those who surround me lift up their heads;

let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!

Let burning coals fall on them!

Let them be flung into pits, no more to rise!

Do not let the slanderer be established in the land;

let evil speedily hunt down the violent!

I know that the LORD maintains the cause of the needy,

and executes justice for the poor.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;

the upright shall live in your presence.

The Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection

A Poetry Reading

We gather as a global community
Uniquely woven together
by our persistent pursuit of hope.
Rising up from the ashes of tragedy,
we proclaim our commitment to creating a better, more just world.
In remembering our past,
may we ignite a fierce passion for the future that propels
Us beyond boundaries of division and unites
Us in common pursuit of the life’s most
precious gifts: faith, hope, and love.
Today, in the shadow of the longest night of the year,
we confidently declare that love and life
shall always triumph over fear and violence.
Help us to know that the light
of love can never be extinguished as long
as we tend to it by acts of compassion,
justice, peace, and reconciliation.
Encourage us that by joining together
we can create a living legacy through our actions in the world.

(From- www.syr.edu/pa103remembrance25)

Sharing of Peace with the Spreading of Light

Come and Fill our Hearts

As you light the candle of the person next to you, offer them a greeting of peace: "Peace be with you."

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are
Llé- na- nos, Se- ñor, de tu paz Por-que só-lo e-res

ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace, fill our hearts with peace
san-to. Llé- na- nos, Se- ñor, de tu paz. Llé-na-nos de paz.

Text: Psalm 137, Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; Taizé Community, 1982
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1982, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Litany for World Peace

Dona Nobis Pacem

Remember, O Lord, the people of this world divided into many nations, religions, and tongues. Deliver us from every evil that stands in the way of your saving purpose, and fulfill the promise of peace on earth among those with whom you are well pleased; through Jesus Christ. **Amen**

From the curse of war and the human sin that causes war,
O Lord, deliver us.

From pride that turns its back on you,
and from unbelief that will not bow to you,
O Lord, deliver us.

From national vanity that poses as patriotism,
and from loud-mouthed boasting and blind self-worship
that admit no guilt,
O Lord, deliver us.

From self-righteousness that will not compromise,
and from selfishness that glories in the oppression of others,
O Lord, deliver us.

From the lust for property or power that drives humanity to kill,
O Lord, deliver us.

From trusting in the weapons of war,
and mistrusting the councils of peace,
O Lord, deliver us.

From hearing, believing, and speaking lies
about other nations and religions,
O Lord, deliver us.

From groundless suspicions and fears
that stand in the way of reconciliation,
O Lord, deliver us.

From words and deeds that encourage discord, prejudice, and hatred;
from everything that prevents the human family
from fulfilling your promise of peace,
O Lord, deliver us.

Lord of Israel, and God of all the nations:
we pray for your children across the whole earth,
of every land and race, that they may be strong to do your will.
We pray especially for the church in the world,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For international federations and alliances
promoting cooperation among peoples,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For world leaders, and for departments of state,
ambassadors, diplomats, and statesmen,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For those in military service,
that they may live for the establishment of peace and justice,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For all who in any way work or pray to further the cause of peace and goodwill,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For civilians in every land,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

For those who declare themselves enemies,
that at last we may find reconciliation,
Give us your peace, O Lord.

—Adapted from *The Worshipbook*, Westminster, 1970.
Posted on the [Presbyterian Church USA](http://www.pcausa.org) website.

Almighty and eternal God, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth,
and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may
become the kingdom of our lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

The Blessing

Presider May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song

This is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3
Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the peace of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**