

# Prayer Vigil

## in Light of the Tragic Events in Ukraine

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.  
- John 14:27*

### **Our Common Concern**

There is war in Europe; Russia has invaded Ukraine, which is a free independent democracy.

In the face of this evil:

We pray for a logic different from the one based on geopolitical competition.

We pray for a change of hearts and minds of leaders.

We pray for de-escalation and dialogue instead of violence and war.

### **Our Common Belief About War & Aggression**

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church say:

We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. From the beginning, the Christian conscience has struggled with the harsh realities of violence and war, for these evils clearly frustrate God's loving purposes for humankind. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. —2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles, ¶ 164

### **Our Common Prayer Concerns**

We stand with the United Methodists in Ukraine in prayer for protection, reconciliation, and peace. We pray for pastors, leaders, and congregations in The United Methodist Church in Ukraine; may God grant that their witness of reconciliation and peace will bring strength and hope to the Ukrainian people.

We pray for Bishop Eduard Khegay, bishop of both Russia and Ukraine; may God give him the wisdom and grace that he needs in his ministry and leadership under these challenging circumstances.

We pray for all the people of Ukraine who are suffering the atrocities of invasion. We pray for the people of Russia who suffer from the economic sanctions imposed upon them because of the unjust actions of their leaders.

May Christ have mercy on us all.

## A Word from Scripture

**God makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. ...  
God breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
God burns the shields with fire.  
God says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
- Psalm 46:9-10 (NRSV)**

## A Prayer for Peace

God of peace,  
Russia has invaded the Ukraine and escalating war seems inevitable.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of wisdom,  
Rain down your Spirit onto the leaders of the world  
That they might find a way where there is no way.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of comfort,  
Wrap the grieving ones in your cloak of consolation.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of courage,  
Be present with all those who are in harm's way.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Amen

## What Can We Do?

You may leave an offering to The United Methodist Committee on Relief for Ukraine in the baskets provided in the aisles. Make check to Suncreek UMC.