

Resources and Prayers to use from Engage worship

Here is a great list of [5 Ukranian worship songs](#), which would be great to listen to as you are praying for the Ukrainian people. The words of this song by the late Andriy Hryfel are particularly poignant:



I long for you as a baby longs for mother,
As the dry land longs for the rain, I long for You.
I look at you when I am exhausted in the struggle,
I pray to You, because I believe my victory is in You,
I stand on the Word, this world will not overcome Your love

Some songs and hymns in English which would also fit around this difficult time:

[King of Compassion by Sue Rinaldi](#)

[Lord Have Mercy by Joel Payne](#)

[O God Do Not Keep Silence by Christopher Idle](#)

[Hope for the World's Despair by Ally Barrett](#)

Text of the prayer:

LEADER: The psalmist writes:

“I call on the Lord in my distress,^[L]^[SEP]
and he answers me.”

Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: We trust you to answer us.

We lift up the people of Ukraine before you.

We call to you for mercy and peace.

Bring comfort to the bereaved, bring an end to violence.

Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: We trust you to answer us.

We pray for the church in Ukraine and Russia,
give strength to use their hands for healing,
and courage to speak truth, justice and love.

Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: We trust you to answer us.

We pray for world leaders,
guide their responses to this crisis,
may hope and grace triumph over fear and hate.

Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: We trust you to answer us.

In a moment of silence,
we lift our fears, our sorrows and our hopes to you.

God of peace, God of love,

have mercy on our world,

have mercy on Ukraine.

Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: We trust you to answer us. Amen.

From the Methodist website

A prayer for Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God

And so to you we pray:

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia, for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid, that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death, that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fulness.

We pray for those who choose war, that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage, that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

Here is the prayer of the late Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks in the Senate of the USA:

Sovereign of the Universe, Who created all in love. Teach us to love all that is good and beautiful in the world. Teach us to honour the dignity of difference, recognising that one who is not in our image is none the less in Your image; never forgetting that people not like us are still people, like us. At this fateful moment in the human story, bless us that we might be a blessing to others. Guide the nations of the world to honour you by honouring one another. So that, reaching out in love, we may turn enemies into friends, and become your family on earth as You are our parent in heaven.

Prayer by David Smyth, Head of Northern Ireland Evangelical Alliance. Please feel free to share or print this prayer.

Father, today we pray for the escalating situation in Ukraine.

We confess that in times of such rapid change and on issues of such complexity, it can be difficult to know how to pray.

So we start with our praise and thanks to you, who remains steadfast and faithful, all-seeing and all-knowing.

We re-orientate ourselves in you, your timescales, your ways and your purposes.

We remind ourselves of your love for this earth you formed and those you created in your image.

We struggle to see clearly through confusion and misinformation, yet recognise an age-old lust for power, control and violence.

We pray for those already mourning, those who are fleeing homes and livelihoods, for those who are fearful and vulnerable.

We pray for intermediaries on the ground and those seeking to defend life and liberty. Blessed are the peacemakers.

Amidst the political posturing and frightening military action we pray for those involved in genuine diplomatic efforts to avert further bloodshed.

We remember how Jesus resisted being co-opted into the religious and political uprisings of competing empires. We remember how He spoke to heal the sick, calm the storm and raise the dead. We too pray that the name of God would not be invoked in destructive nationalistic ways. We pray for powerful words and miraculous actions – for de-escalation, peace and justice, repentance and restoration.

On earth as it is in heaven, and for our faithful witness until then,
Amen.

From Bow Congregational Church

Christians all over the world are being invited to pray and fast for Ukraine, Wednesday 2nd March, Ash Wednesday. This invitation came initially from the Pope and has been endorsed by Justin Welby and the 24-7 Prayer movement. Perhaps you can make some time to pray tomorrow and maybe to skip a meal or fast from something else meaningful as a reminder to pray too?

We hold in prayer the people of Ukraine, the Russians opposed to war, and all those who have the power to stop this war - including Putin. You could also pray for those in your communities deeply affected by this crisis, those who have family in Ukraine or who have lived in the countries neighbouring Ukraine. Pray also for Russians living in your community, struggling to make sense of their nation's aggression. Most of all, let's pray for an end to the bloodshed.

Blog from J John

So, for the first time in my lifetime, Europe finds itself at war. This is not the place for a full analysis of what is happening, but can I simply suggest four duties for those of us who are Christians.

First, we need to be *aware*. In many ways this is a wake-up call for the church. We have followed too closely the naive philosophy of the world that there is nothing so seriously wrong with human beings that science and prosperity will not cure. This appalling invasion of Ukraine demonstrates the sad biblical truth that human beings are inclined to evil and that only the grace of God in Christ can truly bring peace. We have been inclined to consider evil to belong to fantasy realms such as Narnia and Middle-Earth. The sad reality is that evil, whether subtle or blatant, is present in our world.

Second, we have the duty of *prayer*. We are those who believe in a God who answers prayer and who reigns over all the world. Let us bring the situation to him. Let us pray for those who are at this moment frightened and fearful. Let us pray against those powers who wish for evil to be done. Pray for wisdom and unity among those leaders who must oppose the Russian invasion. Let us remember in prayer that one of the sad predictabilities of warfare is that the unpredictable is inevitable. These are very dangerous times.

Third, we have the duty of *care*. We must never forget that the prime Christian virtue is that of love. We need to lift up to our heavenly Father all those, whether in Ukraine or in Russia, who are caught up in this conflict. But we must be prepared to do more than just simply pray. Although much of the suffering will be beyond our immediate aid, there will in the days ahead be opportunities for practical giving and caring. There must be a temptation for people to try to ignore the news and try to forget what is happening. We who are Christians do not have this option. We need to be involved.

Finally, we have a duty to *share*. One of the very few positive things about this conflict is that it is a reminder that this world is not a playground but a battleground. We will be talking with those who are scared and troubled about the state of the world. In this

darkness comes an opportunity to share the light of Christ and the only lasting hope of peace in this world.

J. John