

Ukraine Crisis

Worship Resources

Please use and adapt these resources for worship and encourage your congregation to give generously to this appeal.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has sent shock waves around the world, creating a horrific situation that's still unfolding.

At the beginning of March, more than half a million people had already fled their homes in Ukraine to neighbouring countries. And, according to the UN refugee agency, more than 4.5 million others could become refugees if the fighting continues.

The scale of this crisis is unlike anything seen in Europe since the Second World War.

Through the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance, a global faith-based coalition established by the World Council of Churches, truckloads of relief supplies have already been sent to support families forced to flee their homes by the war. But much, much more help will be needed.

Through the Christmas Bowl, congregations like yours have faithfully responded in prayer and given generously to support the needs of people uprooted by conflict and disaster for many years. Today, we are reaching out to you again and asking you to please respond to this crisis.

There are additional resources for churches on our website, as well as details on how to collect gifts through an open plate collection: www.actforpeace.org.au/helpukraine-church

Your congregation's offerings will help provide the practical and emotional support families uprooted by this war so desperately need. Thank you.

Prayer points for your newsletter

Please pray for:

- A peaceful resolution to this crisis that prevents further human suffering.
- Safety for the children, women and men who have been forced to flee their homes and country, and for those still in danger in Ukraine.
- The Russian citizens who have bravely declared their opposition to these attacks, and for all those who will bear the cost of a senseless war.
- God's blessings on our ecumenical partners distributing urgent supplies.
- Traumatized children whose lives and education has been disrupted through this conflict.
- The churches in the region. And, pray for the leaders and members, that they are able to bring about reconciliation in their community.

Text for your order of service

The National Council of Churches, through its international humanitarian agency, Act for Peace, has launched an emergency appeal in response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Act for Peace are seeking both prayerful and financial support from all churches in Australia.

Act for Peace's ecumenical partners are already on the ground, delivering emergency assistance including food, medicine and temporary shelter.

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and give generously in our open plate collection or online at www.afp.org.au/ukrainecrisis, or phone 1800 025 101.

Call to Worship

Jesus said:

"I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

Let us act justly.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing."

Let us love tenderly.

"I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me."

Let us walk humbly with our God.

May we see Christ in one another,
May we be peacemakers
And bring hope and in Christ's name.

Amen

Prayers of intercession

God of peace,
we have so much in this country,
we often take it for granted.

Our needs are met, each day
and we live in peace and security.

We pray for the people of Ukraine.

We pray that fighting may cease,
that those who are afraid,
my feel your eternal love and peace.

We give thanks for aid agencies and workers,
who are on the ground, distributing food,
and bringing hope.

We pray that we may respond to the desperate need
of many,
be encouraged by the generosity and commitment of
aid workers,
and respond to your call
to act justly, to love tenderly
to walk humbly with our God.

Amen

As we pray for the people of Ukraine,
we give thanks for their resilience
during this time of senseless violence.

We give thanks for humanitarian agencies,
Who are bringing life giving supplies
to people in a desperate situation.

We remember the adjacent countries,
welcoming people who have fled
the horrors of war and
can only hope to return home.

We pray for the peacemakers,
people actively working to help bring peace
in areas of so much conflict.

We pray that we may learn from
the resilience of Ukrainian people
from the generosity and commitment
of aid workers.

Loving God,
Help us to bring about your kingdom
through the sharing of our blessings
with others in desperate situations.

Amen

God, no one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your mercy,
watch over the people of Ukraine,
Comfort those who have lost loved ones,
And strengthen those who are besieged.

Bring healing to those who are injured,
Bring peace to areas of conflict,
Wisdom to those who respond,
Generosity to those who give,
And help us always to show
your kindness to strangers

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen

Litany prayer

In the pain of lost lives,
and shattered hope,

Have mercy on us

In our anguish at the violence
that we can see in the world

Have mercy on us

In our despair at the escalating violence
in Russia and Ukraine

Have mercy on us

In our compassion for all
who are suffering

Have mercy on us

From the greed and injustice
that divides the world into rich and poor

O Lord, deliver us

From hopelessness at seeing problems
too large to know where even to start.

O Lord, deliver us

From being quick to blame
and slow to respond

O Lord, deliver us

From the desire for revenge,
that adds to the cycle of violence

O Lord, deliver us

For generosity to share fairly
the world's resources.

Lord, hear our prayer

For steadfast disciples,
responding generously,
for the needs of suffering people

Lord, hear our prayer

For families who have fled,
And are trying to survive with nothing.

Lord, hear our prayer

For aid agencies and workers,
responding with practical care
in dangerous places,

Lord, hear our prayer

For the love and hope of Christ
to be seen around the world.

This is our prayer

Prayer before a special collection

Loving God,
We know we have the means to give,
And we know there are people
Who need us to give.

But often, we hold back,
And hang on to what we have for ourselves.

Generous God, stir within us.

Give us the courage to act,
To be more like you,
And to be part of your work,
Bringing hope to people suffering
in the Ukraine.

We pray this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Dedication of gifts

We offer these gifts O God,
for the service of your kingdom
in the hope that they will alleviate suffering and
bring hope to those in Ukraine.

Thank you for all the blessings you have given us,
and we pray that our gifts
will be a blessing to others.

Amen

Receive these gifts of love and care,
O God, as a sign of your love and care for us.

May our service
to those who are suffering and in need
reflect your commitment to all people through the
death and resurrection of Jesus.

Amen

We Pray for World Leaders

We pray for the leaders of this world.

May you, the God of Peace dwell in the hearts and minds of leaders of countries around the world as they respond to this crisis.

Incline their ear towards love and justice.

May their decisions, that affect so many, be those of reconciliation, not war.

God, move all our hearts to peace,
Amen

We Pray for Russia

O God, we know that our prayers are the signs of our hope in you.

You call us to pray for our enemies.
And while it may be hard, and test our resolve,

Today, we bring before you leaders of Russia,
And we particularly pray for Vladimir Putin.

May his heart be softened
and his ears be opened to the cries of the oppressed

May the action of his hands
be turned towards compassion and peace.

We pray for the people of Russia,
and especially those who risk arrest
to protest this senseless war.

May they be safe and heard by people in power.
Amen

Announcement wording for a special offering

Since February 24, the world has been in shock at the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

According to the UN, more than 4.5 million others could become refugees if the fighting continues.

The National Council of Churches through its international humanitarian agency, Act for Peace, have launched an emergency appeal in response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Ecumenical partners, have mobilised and are already on the ground, delivering lifesaving emergency assistance.

Act for Peace are seeking both prayerful and financial support from all churches in Australia.

\$60 could help provide temporary shelter for families displaced by the crisis.

\$250 could help provide medicine and non-food items for people who have fled with nothing.

\$580 could help provide food for children and families going hungry as a result of the conflict.

We will be having a special offering today to support this work. Please give generously.

You can find ongoing updates from the Act for Peace website www.actforpeace.org.au/ukrainecrisis