

## **Prayer for Ukraine**

offered at the Global Day of Action for Peace in Ukraine, March 6, 2022  
-- The Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman, First Congregational Church Palo Alto (UCC)

Holy God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed will be ended and a new, just peace forged out of the crisis that warfare brings.

We ask that you grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, to invest in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions.

We pray especially for President Zelensky of Ukraine, President Biden, and all the leaders of NATO nations, that they might act wisely to protect life.

And we pray for President Putin, that he may hear your call to study war no more.

We pray that all political leaders will build trust with each other based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity.

Be with those who are suffering because of armed conflict.

Hear our prayers for all those who have died in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them the eternal peace that is only found in You. Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them.

Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.

Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world. Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control.

Overtake governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control.

Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.

Amen.