

Prayer Vigil

Peace for Ukraine & Our World

WELCOME

INVOCATION *(Leader)*

In the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER ^{©10} *(Leader)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who is always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and who seeks to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may more fully love you and our fellow humankind. Help us to find your hope, peace, joy, love, and light in uncertain times, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN

"Peace, Perfect Peace"

E&R (Red Hymnal) 245

1. **Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.**
3. **Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.**
4. **Peace, perfect peace, 'mid suffering's sharpest throes?
The sympathy of Jesus breathes repose.**
5. **Peace, perfect peace, with those who'r far away?
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.**
6. **Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.**
8. **It is enough: earth's struggles pray shall cease,
Jesus calls us to live Heav'n's perfect peace.**

*Written by Edward H. Bickersteth, Music: George T. Caldbeck & Charles J. Vincent
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SCRIPTURE

Excerpts from Psalm 120 & Psalm 33

Leader: In my distress I cry to the LORD, that he may answer me:

People: "Deliver me, O LORD,

Leader: Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.

People: I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

Leader: The Lord looks down from heaven;

People: he sees all humankind.

Leader: From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth--

People: he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

Leader: A king is not saved by his great army;

People: a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

Leader: The war horse is a vain hope for victory,

People: and by its great might it cannot save.

Leader: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,

People: on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Leader: Our soul waits for the Lord;

People: he is our help and shield.

Leader: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

People: even as we hope in you.

EVENING PRAYER ④⑩

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us pray. Create in us a clean heart, O God.

People: And renew a right spirit within us.

Leader: Cast us not away from your presence.

People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Leader: Hear our prayers O Lord,

ALL:

*{You are invited to speak loudly or quietly
names, causes, places, relationships, and needs,
that you wish to uplift in prayer this evening}.*

Leader: O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto us that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may by your protection pass our time in peace.

Almighty God, who has made humankind in your image. Enable all nations and races to realize our kinship with one another as children of the same eternal Heavenly Father. Restrain all from pride, jealousy, hatred, and selfish ambition. Awaken in all the spirit of justice, brotherhood, and concord. Unite us by the bonds of friendship, that we may work together for the betterment of the whole world. Make wars to cease, and hasten the day when there shall be peace on earth and good will among all people; through him how is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

HYMN

"O Lord Hear My Prayer"

Repeat 4 times

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt., Music: Jacques Berthier
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SCRIPTURE

Leader:

Mark 12:28-31

One of the scribes came near and...he asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Leader:

Luke 6:27-28, 31, 35a

[Jesus speaking to the crowds], "I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High.

Leader:

John 13:34-35

[Jesus speaking to his disciples in the Upper Room],
I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

SILENT PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN*“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

E&R (Red Hymnal) 63

1. **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**
2. **Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**
3. **Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**
4. **In you O Lord, we put our trust, in you our hope is sure.
May love abound and hatred cease and lasting peace endure.**
5. **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!**

*Written by Isaac Watts, v4 by Benjamin D. Motz, Arr. William Croft
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PARTING SCRIPTURE (Leader) *John 14:26-27*

Jesus offered these parting words of encouragement to his disciples in the Upper Room, in anticipation of the trying days ahead....

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

BENEDICTION (Leader)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Shalom. May the world be filled with God’s peace. **Amen.**

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* The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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