

# OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

## **A prayer for the World Day of Prayer, 4 March**

*God of the past, the present and the future,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine  
and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress*

*We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict,  
unrest or oppression.*

*We pray that*

*reconciliation will overcome hatred,  
peace will conquer war,  
hope will replace despair*

*and that your plans for the world and for us its people will be fulfilled,  
God, in your mercy*

***Hear our prayer.***



*from the National Justice & Peace Network*

**For those who are asking : "Why does Ukraine matter?" "**

**How the independent, sovereign, democratic nation of Ukraine ranks:**

- 1st in Europe in proven recoverable reserves of uranium ores;
- 2nd place in Europe and 10th place in the world in terms of titanium ore reserves;
- 2nd place in the world in terms of explored reserves of manganese ores (2.3 billion tons, or 12% of the world's reserves);
- 2nd largest iron ore reserves in the world (30 billion tons);
- 2nd place in Europe in terms of mercury ore reserves;
- 3rd place in Europe (13th place in the world) in shale gas reserves (22 trillion cubic meters)
- 8th place in the world in coal reserves (33.9 billion tons)
- Ukraine is an agricultural country:
- 1st in Europe in terms of arable land area;
- 3rd place in the world by the area of black soil (25% of world's volume);
- 1st place in the world in exports of sunflower and sunflower oil;
- 4th place in the world in barley production and 4th place in barley exports;
- 5th largest producer and 4th largest exporter of corn in the world;
- 3rd largest producer of potatoes in the world;
- 4th largest rye producer in the world;
- 5th place in the world in bee production (75,000 tons);
- 5th place in the world in wheat exports;
- 9th place in the world in the production of chicken eggs;
- Ukraine can meet the food needs of 600 million people.
- Ukraine is an industrialized country:
- 2nd in Europe's and 4th largest natural gas pipeline system in the world (142.5 bln cubic meters of gas throughput capacity in the EU);



## NEWS

02 MARCH  
2022

**Next Justice & Peace  
Action Group meeting**

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR  
UKRAINE**

**TUESDAY 8 MAR 2pm**

St Mary's Church Hall  
Killigrew St, Falmouth  
AN HOUR OF PRAYER FOR  
UKRAINE AND ITS  
PEOPLES

Please come and join us.  
Prayer works miracles and  
is a powerful way to bring  
about the Peace we all  
wish for

*All are most welcome*

**Please send any  
comments or items for  
future issues to**

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- 2nd largest in Europe and 8th largest in the world in terms of installed capacity of nuclear power plants;
- 3rd place in Europe and 11th in the world in terms of rail network length (21,700 km);
- 5th largest iron exporter in the world
- 4th largest exporter of turbines for nuclear power plants in the world;
- 4th world's largest manufacturer of rocket launchers;
- 3rd place in the world in clay exports
- 5th place in the world in titanium exports
- 8th place in the world in exports of ores and concentrates;
- 12th place in the world in exports of defense industry products;
- 12th largest steel producer in the world (32.4 million tons).

Source: [Andriy Futey](#)

*Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Ukrainian World Congress – Світовий Конгрес Українців*

Regardless of the above, though, the important thing in all of this is the people. They don't want to fight or have their homeland destroyed. They don't want to lose loved ones for no reason. Their struggle has become our struggle, and we support them in love and prayer.

### What Putin Wants

Peter Rickets (former Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office) writes in [Prospects Magazine](#) about Putin wanting to re-open the post-Cold War settlement.

### Pope visits Russian Embassy

On Friday, Pope Francis went to see the Russian Ambassador to the Holy See to express his concern about the war in Ukraine. Vatican News stated that he had previously appealed : - *"to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war."* And he called on believers and non-believers alike to unite in a joint supplication for peace next 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, by praying and fasting. *"Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting,"* the Pontiff said. *"I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."* You can read the full article through [Vatican News](#).

### UNHCR, the Refugee Agency

The [UN High Commissioner for Refugees Facebook](#) page has up to date news on what they are doing in Ukraine at present, and the humanitarian aid they are providing.



### Statements from the Religious Communities

#### Pope Francis' Statement

*"I have great pain in my heart over the worsening situation in Ukraine,"*

*"Like me, many people all over the world are anguished and worried. Once again, everyone's peace is threatened by one side's interests."*

*"I would like all those who have the political responsibility to make a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war... He wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all parties involved will refrain from any action that will cause even more suffering for people, destabilizing coexistence among nations and undermining international law."*

*"And now, I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting,"*

*"I invite everyone to make next March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."*

### Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby and the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell have posted a pastoral letter concerning the situation in Ukraine, calling for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces, as well as giving some specific dates for prayer. You can read the full letter [here](#).

### His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kyiv and All Ukraine (Moscow Patriarchate)

The Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine, and primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, urged people to pray for Ukraine, for the army and the people, to forget mutual quarrels and misunderstandings and to unite in love for God and the homeland.

His words are available to read through [World Council of Churches](#) [here](#).

### A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



*Many agencies are mounting appeals for the Ukraine emergency.*

Churches Together in Cornwall now has a list of some of them available at <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/ukraine-emergency-appeals/> - this will be regularly updated.

Also available is a list of prayer resources at

<https://www.ctcinfohub.org/prayers-for-ukraine/>

**The Last Word** This beautiful piece was played at the end of the NJPN Prayer Meeting on Thursday: -

[Within our Darkest Night from the Taize Community](#)

