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March 2022

Day of Prayer and Action for Ukraine

Dear friends,

The devastation of war in Ukraine has touched so many hearts around the world. It has brought home the horror of war and reminded us of the tragedy of other ongoing conflicts around our world too.

As local churches we have held collections of money and clothing and have offered prayers and held space for people within our communities to respond. Those responses have been very generous and moving. Thank you for all you have been doing so far.

The circuit staff team now invite us as a Circuit to unite our efforts around a “*Day of Prayer and Action for Ukraine*”. We want to mark **Friday 25th March 2022** as a day for us to pray either wherever we are, or to come to a prayer space (details below). We will also be accepting donations of money or goods if you choose to give in this way too.

There will be four venues for prayer and giving open on
Friday 25th from 10am-1pm and again from 6-8pm:

Edmonton
Goffs Oak
Ponders End
Southgate (in the quiet room)

Alternatively, please pray wherever you are on the day. You can use the prayer below or find other resources to help you at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayers-for-ukraine/> You will also find suggestions for contacting your M.P and supporting refugees in other ways.

Donations of money given on the day will be offered to “All We Can”. You can read about their emergency appeal or give directly here: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/>

On the 25th, we would welcome donations of:

- Antiseptic wipes
- Masks (disposable and reusable)
- Paper towels; Individual sterile dressing
- Thermal blankets; Sleeping bags
- Clothing (adult and children)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Nappies
- Sanitary pads
- Battery torches; Solar power phone chargers
- Ready meals (dry); Canned food; dried fruit/nuts.

Please speak with any circuit staff team member if you require more details.

We invite you to share with us on the 25th March in any way you can. You might want to use some of these prayers:

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of 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 fullness.

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

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

We hope that this day of prayer and action for Ukraine can help us and those in communities to respond, as we remember in prayer the people of Ukraine and all who live with the reality of war across our world.

With every blessing,
Dan (on behalf of the circuit staff team).