



PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Women's Ordination Worldwide 2022

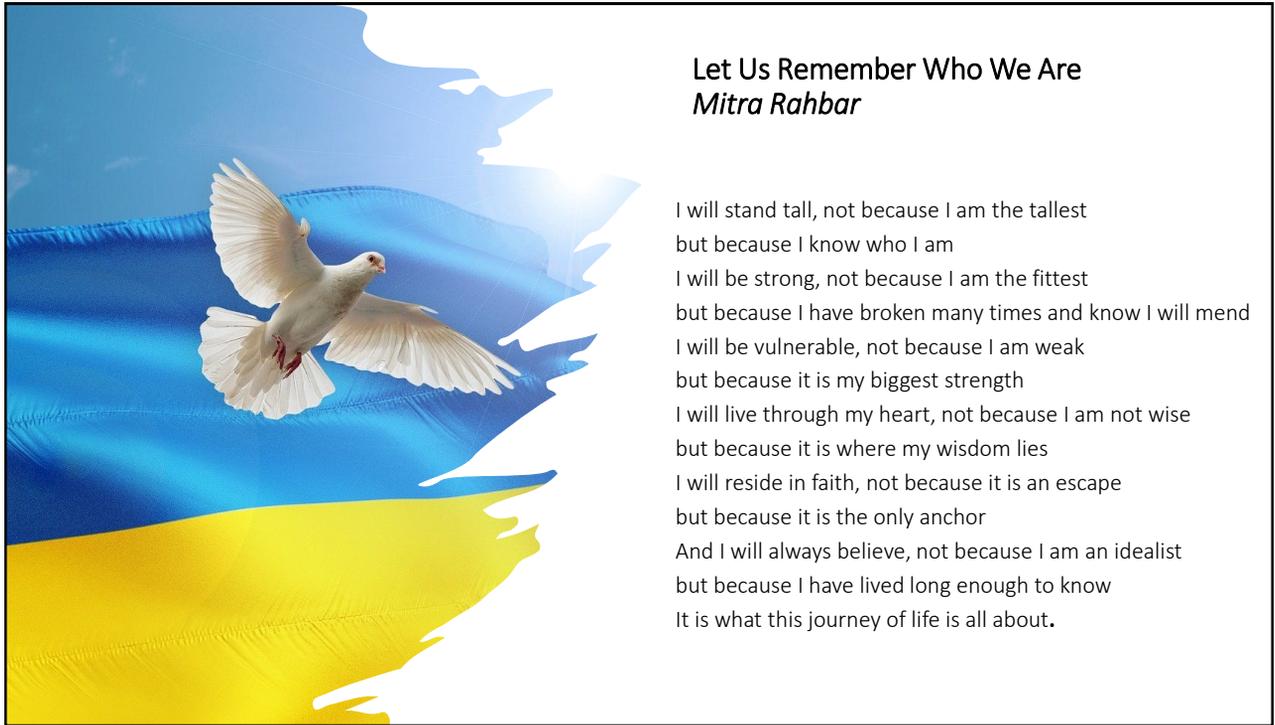
1

Opening Prayer *John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher*

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.
For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.
That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.
That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.
That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.
That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares
And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

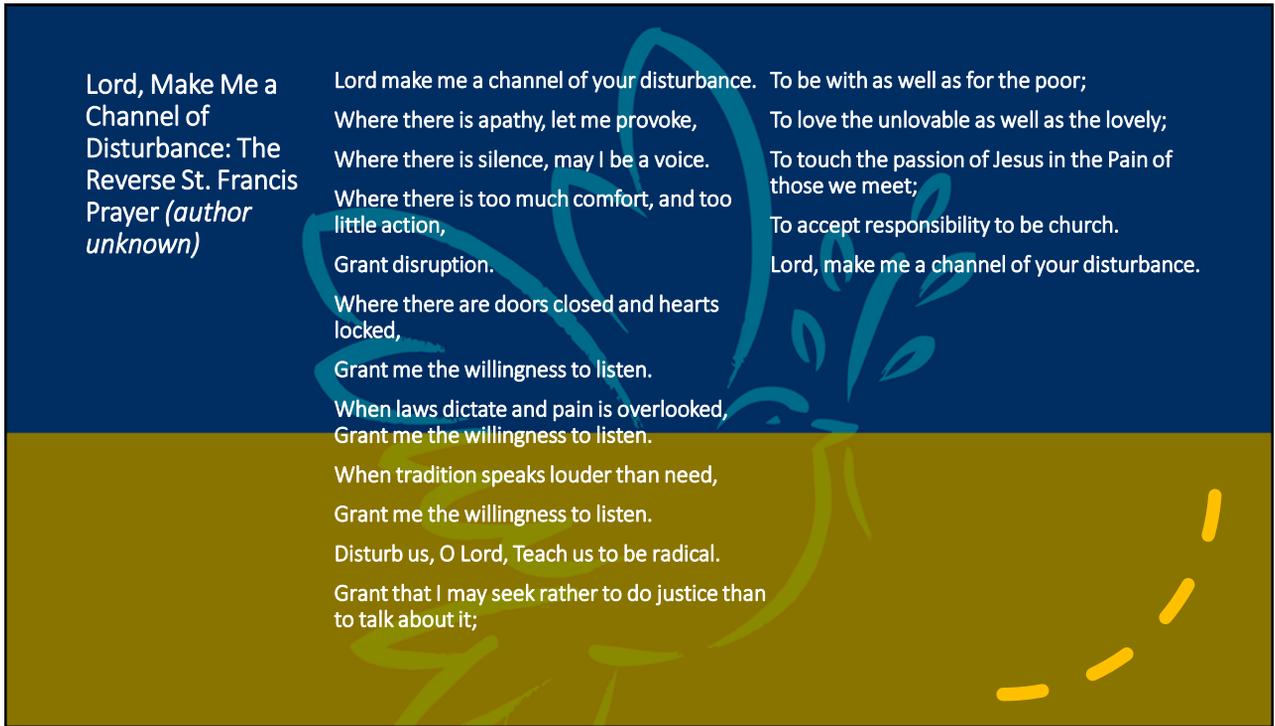


2



Let Us Remember Who We Are
Mitra Rahbar

I will stand tall, not because I am the tallest
but because I know who I am
I will be strong, not because I am the fittest
but because I have broken many times and know I will mend
I will be vulnerable, not because I am weak
but because it is my biggest strength
I will live through my heart, not because I am not wise
but because it is where my wisdom lies
I will reside in faith, not because it is an escape
but because it is the only anchor
And I will always believe, not because I am an idealist
but because I have lived long enough to know
It is what this journey of life is all about.



Lord, Make Me a
Channel of
Disturbance: The
Reverse St. Francis
Prayer (*author
unknown*)

Lord make me a channel of your disturbance. To be with as well as for the poor;
Where there is apathy, let me provoke, To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;
Where there is silence, may I be a voice. To touch the passion of Jesus in the Pain of
Where there is too much comfort, and too those we meet;
little action, To accept responsibility to be church.
Grant disruption. Lord, make me a channel of your disturbance.
Where there are doors closed and hearts
locked,
Grant me the willingness to listen.
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked,
Grant me the willingness to listen.
When tradition speaks louder than need,
Grant me the willingness to listen.
Disturb us, O Lord, Teach us to be radical.
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than
to talk about it;

Prayer for Ukraine *Kayla Craig*

O God of peace, our hearts are heavy

And our brains can barely keep up with the breaking news.

We don't know what to say or what to do in a world so wounded.

So we come to you with hearts heavy for

All who sit in the crossfires of violence and acts of war.

O God of peace, be with the people of Ukraine.

With the mothers who carry babies to subway shelters.

With the fathers who hold their heads in their hands.

With the children who absorb the traumas.

Of violent acts of powerful men.

O God of peace, we don't know the words to pray

For a warring world and all who are vulnerable in it.

We don't pretend to know the extent of the damages

Or what tomorrow (or today) will bring.

But we know that you are a God of peace

And we can't bomb our way to shalom.

O God of peace, comfort the crying and heal the hurt.

Tend the aching and soothe the fearful.

Make us instruments of your peace

Creating a sacred symphony where

Rhythms of grace are danced upon

And evil has lost its sting, now and forevermore.

O God of peace, hear our prayer.

5

A Prayer for Ukraine *Inderjit Bhogal, The Fellowship of Reconciliation*



We hold before you all who live close to war and conflict; and all who live close to the threat of war and violence.

We remember especially at this time, people in Ukraine and Russia. We pray for nonviolent and peaceful resolutions of conflict.

Give us to us all hearts of hospitality and sanctuary, forgive us all our hostility and hatred.

Bring all people to the humanity you give us, and to the reconciliation and healing for which you give your life.

Strengthen us all to work with you to build justice and peace, reconciliation and healing, in our hearts and homes, in our streets, in all communities, neighbourhoods and nations.

Bless all who live lives for the peace and wellbeing of others, and make their service fruitful.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

6

A Prayer for Ukraine

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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.

7

The Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.

Celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium

8

Share the Journey Prayer

God our refuge,
you share the journey
with migrants and refugees,
lightening their footsteps with hope.
For you, Lord, are close
to the broken-hearted.
Pour out your Spirit
upon world leaders.
May they see the tragedies
of our human family,
and be moved to respond with
wisdom, compassion and courage.
Open our eyes and hearts
to the God-given dignity
of all your people.
Move us to welcome our neighbours,
and so bear witness to your love.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen

A Prayer of Mercy for Refugees

Abba Father, our beloved Father,
look down with mercy on us and all refugees.

Remember your son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
had to leave his homeland and flee to Egypt,
when he was a baby,
with his mother, Mary,
and foster father, Joseph.

Help us to be aware
of the fears, anxiety, pain, sorrow,
difficulties and uncertainty all refugees suffer,
and to remember that we all belong
to the same human family.

Holy Spirit,
please give us compassion and courage
to help them in any way we can.
Amen.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.



Prayers for Ukraine



Lord of all people and all nations,
We lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of
Russia,
Each girl and boy, each woman and man living in fear of what
tomorrow might bring,
We long for a time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah,
When weapons of war would be beaten into ploughshares,
When nation will no longer lift up sword against nation,
We cry out to you for peace,
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security
and safety,
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their
loved ones,
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression,
Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace,
Please Lord come and have your way in your world,
May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven,
May your peace reign. Now and always,
We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do
more than we can ever ask or imagine,
In the name of Christ our saviour.

David Thomas, Ireland's Church and Community Manager

Borders, barricades, bewilderment...
When the bargaining begins,
God please protect peace.

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary...
When safety scatters,
God please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keeper's clothes,
Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do people...
When the future feels fragile,
God please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say,
Those whose lives are sanctioned and bargained over –
Violence always finds them first.

And the 'oh-so-important' political manoeuvres mean
nothing to them.
They just want to live.

When the winners want to wipe them out of the way,
God please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together –
God give us the strength to protect peace

Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Nations and Church Relations

Litany for Peace in Ukraine *Eastern Orthodox prayer*

We pray for the safety of those in danger of armed conflict in Ukraine: comfort the fearful and strengthen the weak, O Lord, and hold your embrace in all those who face suffering and oppression: Have mercy, Lord Jesus.

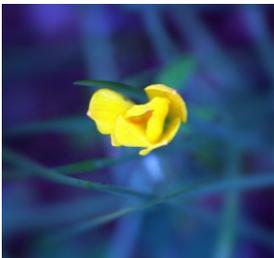
We pray for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership at this time: be with the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, NATO, the European Union and all those in authority, O Lord. Grant them the gift of wisdom and resolve in the search for a swift resolution to this crisis, and the will to work for reconciliation and lasting peace: Have mercy, Lord Jesus.

We pray for the safety of the armed forces, police and emergency services, and all who uphold the sovereignty, safety and public order of Ukraine: protect them from danger, O Lord, give them courage when facing unknown dangers: Have mercy, Lord Jesus.

We pray for religious and community leaders, and those committed to promoting peace: raise up peacemakers and peace-keepers, O Lord, and foster in the hearts of all the longing for reconciliation that is the root of lasting peace: Have mercy, Lord Jesus.

We pray for the future security of our world: grant us a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect, O Lord, and equip us to work for peace and freedom, for justice and the rule of law, that together we might go forward with confidence and hope: Have mercy, Lord Jesus.

Shantideva Prayer for peace
8th century Indian Buddhist monk



May I become at all times, both now and forever

A protector of those without protection

A guide for those who have lost their way

A ship for those with oceans to cross

A bridge for those with rivers to cross

A sanctuary for those in danger

A lamp for those without light

A place of refuge for those who lack shelter

And a servant to all in need

For as long as space endures,
And for as long as living beings remain,

Until then may I, too, abide

To dispel the misery of the world.