

Welcome to
Service of Prayer
for **Ukraine** and the **World**

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
-Matthew 5:9*



March 27, 2022

On behalf of the congregations of our minisisterium: Crestview Community Presbyterian Church, St. John's United Church of Christ, Westminster United Presbyterian Church, and tonight's host site, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, welcome to worship.

If you feel moved to make an offering tonight, all funds collected will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response earmarked for their work in the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. Plates are located on tables near the entrances to the nave. Thank you.

PRELUDE

God Will Take Care of You

Stillman Martin

GREETINGS

from Father Yurii Bobko, Saints Peter and Paul

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

GATHERING HYMN: O God of Every Nation



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer-cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.



GREETING LITANY

The God of healing, hope, and wholeness be with you all.

And also with you.

The Son of righteousness fill you with hope and peace.

May it be the same for our neighbors and friends.

The Spirit of holiness and resurrection stir within you.

May the wind that brought forth creation from chaos continue to do so.

O God, you are the source of our hope.

Guide us through change and chance.

When we grow weary and faint,

call our hearts to be your own.

When our plans fall to dust,

be our temple and our tower

When the world lacks joy and beauty,

reveal your splendor, light, and life.

O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.

Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.

Hear these words, receive their power:

The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.

The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.

The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,**

grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and

widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities

close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance.

Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination.

Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and

strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus

Christ, our Savior. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 6-11

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

**³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

**⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.**

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."

**¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of
God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who
were before you.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY



REFLECTION HYMN: There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

MEDITATION

Silence follows. Use this time to lament violence and to reflect on the Crucified Christ's call for peace, and our role in partnering with God to make God's will for a kingdom of peace become reality in our hearts, communities, and world. Please quietly pray as well. Use the prayers below or the whispers of the Holy Spirit in your heart to guide you. The end of the silent mediation is marked by the ringing of a bell.

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of war in Ukraine and of violence in other nations, including our own, that fails to even gain our attention. Open our eyes and our hearts to the pain and struggles of our one human family. In the face of these events, uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need to be peacemakers, through the tender compassion and holy resolve made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rock of Ages, you are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless the public servants in the governments of nations who are seeking to find nonviolent ways to bring an end to war, that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Aid them in using their authority to serve faithfully and to promote the common life of all of humanity. Grant safety, courage, faith, hope, and enduring love to the leaders of Ukraine, that they might be instruments of well-being for their citizens, stewards of just peace, and beacons of a merciful future. Finally, Lord of all, help those in power in Russia to find true humility and repentance, and convert them into tools of hospitality rather than weapons of hostility, so that life might flourish in Ukraine, Russia, and all nations and neighborhoods; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus you bear that pain with all who suffer at others' hands. With your cleansing love bring healing and strength to the people of Ukraine; and by your justice, lift them up, that in body, mind, and spirit, they may again rejoice in peace and safety in their native land. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Oh Divine, most mighty, most merciful, our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more war. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. Oh Divine, most majestic, most motherly, grant us your life. **Amen.**

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bell Ringing

SONG OF INTERCESSION: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. God our deliverer, whose presence still shakes the foundations of our world, may we so wait for your next coming with eagerness and hope that we embrace without terror the labor pangs of the new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ our victim, whose beauty disfigured and whose body torn upon the cross; open wide your arms to embrace our tortured world, especially the victims who were injured and for the families who mourn the deaths of the many who were killed in Ukraine and other war-torn nations, that we may not turn away our eyes, but abandon ourselves to your mercy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God whose Holy name defies our definition, but whose will is known in freeing the oppressed, make us to be one with all who cry for justice; that we who speak your praise may struggle for your truth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God whose Spirit stirs us into wise action, whose speech is ripe with power and whose word is always fulfilled; keep us from becoming complacent with any force that distorts your truth, and make our hearts attentive to your liberating voice.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, we give thanks for those saints the world over who moved, and breathed, and had their being among us and now find rest in you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Time for other intercessions named aloud or lifted up quietly

O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

SONG OF INTERCESSION: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

BLESSING

May God give you peace and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us depart sharing Christ's peace here and throughout the world.

POSTLUDE *How Great Thou Art*

Acknowledgments:

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