



**A Service for the blessings of peace for Ukraine,
the Ukrainian People, and our world.
Canada East Mission,**



Hymns for Centering:

CCS #50 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

CCS #556 Lord Jesus of You I Will Sing



Invitation to Worship:

Maybe I have been living much too fast, too restlessly, too feverishly, forgetting to pay attention to what is happening here and now, right under my nose. Just as a whole world of beauty can be discovered in one flower, so the great grace of God can be tasted in one small moment. Just as no great travels are necessary to see the beauty of creation, so no great ecstasies are needed to discover the love of God. But you have to be still and wait so that you can realize that God is not in the earthquake, the storm, or the lightning, but in the gentle breeze with which he touches your back.

Henri Nouwen.

Today we remember Ukraine and the Ukrainian People.

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It is the second largest country in Europe after Russia, which borders it to the east and north-east. Ukraine also shares borders with Belarus to the north; Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to the west; Romania and Moldova to the south; and has a coastline along the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. It covers about 600,000 km², with a population of about 40 million. The nation's capital and largest city is Kyiv. The official and national language is Ukrainian.

Due to its extensive fertile land, pre-war Ukraine was one of the largest grain exporters in the world. Ukraine is a "breadbasket" nation for our world. It is a member of the United Nations.

For the past months the Ukraine has been rocked by an unjust War with its neighbour to the east.

The Sunflower is a symbol for Ukraine and the Ukrainian People.

Hymn of Consolation:

CCS #315 O Christ Who by a Cross

Responsive Reading:

(Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7; 12:2-6; 49:6, 10, 13; 52:7-10.)

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Many: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder.

One: And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

Many: Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

One: Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ` For Jehovah, the Lord, is my strength and my song.

Many: He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

One: In that day you will say: Praise the Lord, call upon His name.

Many: Declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.

One: Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth.

Many: Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!

One: I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.

Many: For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them.

One: Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains!

Many: For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.

One: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace

Many: who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Lighting of the Peace Candle and Prayer for Peace:

One: God of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people; God of the many systems of faith and salvation; God who holds all people as precious and of inestimable worth;

We call on you to cause nation to strive against nation no more. We ask that you cause dissension and strife between people to come to an end. Change our hearts so we may suffer war, and dissension, no more.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: God who sees all people as precious, mold our hearts to see the other as you see them and in that change of perspective come to recognize them as your beloved and, in that process, come to recognize we are beloved as well.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Grant that we, in this time of pestilence and war, may recover better and make a stand for human rights, the inalienable rights owing to all persons, everywhere.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: May we be spurred to end discrimination, calamity, and war of any kind, and address inequalities of any kind, past and present, that the worth of all persons may be realized in us, in our communities, in our nations and our world.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Spur us to participation and solidarity, realizing we are all in "this" together, seeing each other as co-creators of a reality that is better for present and future generations. Help us to ensure that the voices of the most affected and vulnerable are strongly heard in our global recovery efforts.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Help us to ensure sustainable development for planet and creatures as the cornerstone that leaves no one behind.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: On this day we have set aside to recognize, hold, love, and reflect on the Ukrainian People, help us to see with your eyes and beyond the confines of nationality, race and culture, to the vision you have for us and our world, that your time of peace, perfect peace, may become reality.

We recognize that all persons, on all sides of this conflict are beloved, your beloved, and we call on you to soften our hearts while strengthening our resolve to stand for justice, what is right, peace, and end to war.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: We hold Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the leaders, and the people of Ukraine worldwide in our love, thoughts, meditations, and prayers, that their safety and lives may be realized and sustained. We hold them now, for a brief moment in your light.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: We hold Russian President, Vladimir Putin, the leaders, and people of Russia in our love, thoughts, meditations, and prayers, that hearts may be softened, burdens may be lifted, a way forward in peace may be sought, implemented, realized to bring an end to this unjust war. We hold them now, for a brief moment in your light.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Sustain in us the value of our enduring principles, our mission initiatives, our blessings of unity in our diversity, that all may come to the table loved, welcomed, blessed, co-constituents of our common humanity.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Awake us, renew us, bless us, set our feet on the path to work in all ways for universal human rights, an end to hyper nationalism, and war. May our efforts bring the least and the vulnerable with full voice, to your table, as we stand for shalom.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: We lift our voices, united, to call on you. We are bold enough to ask that the blessings of restoration, reconciliation, healing, curing, wholeness, peace, and true shalom may be realized, here, now, for each individual, for humanity as a whole.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: Accept our efforts, for you in love, and may those efforts be the hallmark of our calling, and our clarion call to our world.

Many: Lord, hear our prayer...

(pause)

Lord, Lord, hear our prayer...

All: Amen.

Period of Personal Reflection and Meditation:

(project words and allow 5 minutes)

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace
You may say I'm a dreamer
I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will live as one

John Lennon

Hymn of Personal Reflection:

CCS #404 Canticle of the Turning

American President John Kennedy once warned that nuclear powers "must avert those confrontations which bring an adversary to a choice of either a humiliating retreat or a nuclear war."

The aggressive Western approach, the slow progress of Putin's war of attrition and the lack of any diplomatic effort to end the war mean that it is almost certain the Russian leader will get further backed into a dangerous corner.

At this time, in this moment we remember who holds us fast.

Sending forth:

One of the experiences of prayer is that it seems that nothing happens. But when you stay with it and look back over a long period of prayer, you suddenly realize that something has happened. What is most close, most intimate, most present often cannot be experienced directly but only with a certain distance. When I think I am only distracted, just wasting my time, something is happening too immediate for knowing, understanding, and experiencing. Only in retrospect do I realize that something very important has taken place. Isn't this true of all really important events in life?

Henri Nouwen.

In the peace of the Christ we have gathered, in the peace of the Christ let us part. Carry this peace and proclaim it loudly that in you justice, mercy, an end to conflict, and shalom may become reality in your life, the life of your family, city, nation, and our world, may become reality.

Hymn of Parting:

CCS #155 Dona Nobis Pacem

