



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith

Friday 25 February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to you in response to the escalating situation in Ukraine.

The attack by Russia is an act of evil which impacts not only upon Ukraine, but Europe and the whole world. This attack by one nation on another has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions, and condemnation.

Our rightful response must be first to pray to call upon God to seek His intervention in the hearts and minds of our world leaders that they may once again choose peace over war.

We must pray for the people of Ukraine, for their safety and wellbeing and pray for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces.

Finally we must pray for the strength of those who work across international borders for unity and harmony.

I echo the call of the Archbishop of Canterbury to make this Sunday a day for Prayer for Peace and I have included a prayer that you may like to use.

I also encourage you to participate with the wider church in Pope Francis's call to make Ash Wednesday, 2 March, a day of prayer and fasting for peace.

Psalm 46 opens with a confident statement of faith: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear. This is a much-needed reminder in times like these of the sovereignty and power of God and of his presence with us that calls us to trust in him.

The psalm goes on to say he makes wars cease to the ends of the earth (verse 9). This is our prayer that once again God would intervene and bring an end to war.

The psalmist then declares God's message to us "be still and know that I am God." This message continues to be the message for us today. It reminds us to have confidence in our God who is indeed a refuge and strength for all who call upon him.

Be assured of my prayers for you at this time.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Smith".

The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia

Resources for Prayer

[APPAA – In times of international tensions]

Almighty God, ruler of all,
in whose kingdom peace and righteousness abound;
we pray for those who are in conflict especially Ukraine.
Take away prejudice, cruelty, and revenge.
Grant that barriers which divide may crumble,
suspicions disappear and hatreds cease,
through Jesus Christ our mediator. Amen.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Sovereign God,
We pray for the nation of Ukraine, its leaders and people.
We pray that you would make your presence known to them at this time of strife.
We pray for their protection and for an end to the Russian invasion.
We pray for the innocent, the frightened, the dispossessed, and those who have lost loved ones, homes and family.
We pray that you would bless the endeavours of those who work for peace and an end to this conflict.
Have mercy, we pray, on Ukraine.
May your peace rule in the hearts and minds of all.
Continue to stir up the leaders of the world to work together for the good of all.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.