

## A Prayer for Peace —Remembering Ukraine and Russia—

Dear God, our Lord

We live in sin, and the communities that we belong to also commit sins.

Cleanse us with your holy fire.

When we forget to fear you, and we inflate ourselves and become imperious,

we threaten and injure others,

and turn away from you.

Lord, shatter our human arrogance.

Lord of Hosts, your power to forgive is stronger than the burden of guilt that takes us down.

Deliver us, deliver this world from sin.

Touch us with the grace of your forgiveness, and give us strength and humility to forgive.

Some people possess the power of life and death over many others.

We pray for them,

that they will choose life.

We pray for those who have chosen the path to war,

that they will remember your direction.

You are the God of Peace.

You have shown us your will;

It is to turn swords into plowshares, to make war no more, to seek peace,

and will repent of their evil ambitions.

We pray for the leaders of this world and leaders of Japan,

and for the churches of this world and churches in Japan.

May all be guided by the wisdom and love of Christ,

so that they can face the present challenges with courage.

Empower them, and all of us, to discover the path of peace,  
not through force of arms, but through loving dialogue and mutual understanding,  
with hearts of mutual care for those whose situations differ from theirs and our own.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia.  
We pray for the people whose lives are threatened,  
for those who are assaulted by fear and anxiety,  
and for those who eagerly call for peace.

Dear God, hear their cries,  
be with them and protect them by your hand,  
save them from the path of ruin.  
Please, give them comfort and hope.  
Bestow your peace.

Dear Lord of life and peace,  
Let us proclaim your good will,  
lifting up our voices, each in our own place.  
Help us to seek and follow your will,  
together with Christ's followers around the world,  
so that we may be makers of peace.

Before God's only Son, Jesus Christ,  
mediator of our prayers,  
who hears our cries,  
we offer this prayer.

Amen

United Church of Christ in Japan, Commission on Ecumenical Ministries