



Perth Quaker Meeting

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Ukraine

World events continue to escalate at an alarming pace, and we have received news of more responses to the war in Ukraine which cannot wait until the next regular issue of *Meeting News* on Wednesday 9 March. Here they are:

Iona Community

<https://iona.org.uk/prayact-for-peace/>

This piece was posted by The Iona Community on 28 February and was drawn to our attention by Kevin Franz:

If I talk in the rhetoric of politicians and commentators, but do not speak peace, I am a beating drum or an amplified guitar. And if I know what tomorrow will bring, and know the secrets of the universes, and if I trusted everyone, but do not seek peace, I am empty. If I sold everything I have and donated it to non-profits, and if I signed up to be an organ donor, but did not share peace with those around me, I have wasted my chance to matter.

Peace has no use-by date; peace is gentleness; peace does not want what it does not have; peace does not flex its muscles or play war games; peace does not push others out of the way. Peace does not lust after another's country, or cling to ancient grudges; it does not pout or hold its breath and kick its feet on the floor; it never plays tricks on someone else, and refuses to raise false flags. Peace puts up with others' foolishness, sees the best in other people, seeks common ground with everyone, persists to the very end.

Peace never gives up. The politicians will disappear into history, the talking heads will run out of words; the wisdom of all the experts will turn to dust. For we do not know how the story ends, and our best guesses are just that, guesses. But when God's time finally comes, all the pieces of the puzzle will fit. When I was a child, I practiced duck-and-cover, I watched movies about missiles coming out of the air, I had nightmares of nuclear winters; but when I grew up, I discovered the path of peace. Now, though the mirror is fogged by the steam of heated rhetoric, I can see the faces of my siblings in humanity. In this time, I

struggle to understand, but the day will come when we realize we are in this thing called life together and can only live if we care each other.

Yes, faith, hope, and love are bedrocks for our lives, but what we need to craft right now is peace.

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*for what shall we pray this night?
for children trembling at
the noise of explosions around them,
and older folks being revisited
by ancient nightmares of nuclear war.*

*for families hoping to find enough
petrol in order to flee fears,
and for those who can ill afford
rising prices for everything as
war breaks out in Ukraine.*

Gentle God, hear our prayers.

*for what shall we pray this night?
for families who continue to live
in conditions none of us would accept,
and for those who will shiver
in cold parks and doorways this night.*

*for those who long to return to work
but wonder if management cares for them,
and for others who never get
a call back for a second interview.*

Jesus of Justice, hear our prayers.

*for what shall we pray this night?
for relationships which have been strained
to the breaking point and beyond,*

*and for the people who try to build bridges
to those on the other side of divisions.*

*for people caught up in enmities
which go back centuries and centuries,
and for all who pray for peace, work for peace,
seek to be peace in the broken places.*

Spirit of calm, hear our prayers.

*for what shall we pray this night?
for all these spoken prayers
and for all whispered in our hearts,
God in Community, Holy in One,
hear our prayers, hear our prayers. Amen.*

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Scottish Church Leaders Forum

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/worship-leaders-encouraged-to-use-prayer-for-peace-this-sunday>

Adwoa Bittle, Quaker representative on ACTS, has signed this statement along with 10 Scottish Christian denominational leaders:

Worship leaders across the Church are being encouraged to use a special ecumenical prayer for peace in Ukraine as part of their services this Sunday.

It has been produced by the Scottish Church Leaders Forum in response to the invasion and they stand in solidarity with all those who face the perils of war and the fear that ensues when the bonds of peace are broken.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly and one of the signatories, said: "All of us have looked on in horror as Russian forces launched a full-scale assault on Ukraine in the last 24 hours.

"We urge President Putin to cease hostilities and call on all parties to agree a ceasefire and return immediately to the negotiating table.

"I would encourage all worship leaders across the Church of Scotland to consider incorporating this prayer in their services this Sunday as we continue to hold the Ukrainian people in our thoughts and send them our full support."

*Living God,
Creator and giver of life to all people:*

*We ask that you would hear our prayer for peace amongst the nations
And for ending of conflict in Ukraine.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Living God,
Who shall judge between the nations:
We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace
And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Living God,
Who has inspired faith across the ages:
Grant peace in the midst of war
And bring harmony to the commonwealth of nations.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Living God,
Who gave his only Son that we might have life:
We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit
And inspire in us hope that peace will be renewed.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

Perth Baptist Church

Vigil for the Ukrainian people

We have received this invitation from Perth Baptist Church, via Perth Action of Churches Together:

I attach an important video from our Pastor, Eder Goncalves, concerning a prayer vigil for the Ukrainian people to be held on Monday night (7March) at Perth Baptist Church.



The video can be found at

<https://youtu.be/czRNfMueSw>

Scottish CND

Under the headline 'No nuclear escalation' SCND has issued a statement reproduced in part below:

We are closer to nuclear war than at any time since the Cuba Missile Crisis; a widely held view put to a cross-party group in the Scottish parliament this week by Almut Rochowanski, when relaying information from her contacts in Ukraine. Nuclear weapons do not stop military conflict; to justify their existence, by claiming they do, only perpetuates the possibility of nuclear war.

*The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will join peaceful protests in Edinburgh and Aberdeen on Sunday 6 March 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and recognise that the world is now closer to nuclear war. Our messages to world leaders are: **No nuclear escalation. Help stop the killing. Negotiate peace.***



[More information on Facebook.](#)

Friends World Committee for Consultation (European and Middle East Section)

EMES will host another one hour online meeting for worship to uphold the current situation in Ukraine on Tuesday 8th March at the following times:

12.00 Britain, Ireland & Portugal

13.00 CET

14.00 EET, Lebanon, Palestine & Ukraine

15.00 Moscow

16.00 Georgia

[Please register here to receive the Zoom link](#)

Faithful action for Ukraine



Join Friends to worship for the situation in Ukraine on Tuesday 8 March (12.00 UK and Ireland). [Details and registration.](#)

Join Friends World Committee for Consultation's Quaker-led [Christian call for peace.](#)

Meeting for Sufferings will also be discerning about Ukraine on 6 March.

Christian call for peace – please sign

· "Invasion and occupation are the opposite of Christ's universal call to reconciliation and unity."

Join [Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC World Office's Quaker-led Christian call for peace](#) and add your name: <https://fwcc.world/christian-call-for-peace/>