

# Ukraine Lament

**Date:** Friday, February 24

**Time:** 3:30 pm

**Place:** St. Agnes Convent Chapel

**Environment:** The Christ Pantocrato draped on the altar

**Prelude:** chimes – 3X3

**Welcome**

**Why we gather** – *One year ago today Russia mounted a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, unleashing brutal and unrelenting violence upon the Ukrainian people. United with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters we grieve the death, destruction, and atrocities of this past year and pray for an early end to the fighting and the establishment of lasting peace. We do this in a communal lament, a passionate expression of sorrow and grief, a cry to God for deliverance.*

Remembering, Oh God, your abiding presence and deliverance in times past we pour our hearts to you. How long, oh God!

**Chimes**

- We see intense fighting and we cry out for bombs to stop dropping and tanks to stop rolling.
- We grieve and lament what is now the center of one of the largest human displacements in the world.
  - 8 million internally displaced within the country and
  - 8 million people who have fled Ukraine as refugees.
- We lament the terror and fear this wreaks upon people – especially the elderly, children and the infirmed.
- We grieve the disruption and impact on neighboring countries Romania, Moldova, Poland, Hungary
- We are heartbroken for families ripped apart and separated.
- We weep with those mourning the loss off loved ones who have died or been captured.
- We mourn the destruction of homes and villages and whole cities that have been flattened and destroyed . . . places of beauty and shared culture and history – and each home a sacred place where a family once lived.
- We have compassion for the many suffering from violence, cold, and the lack of basic necessities.
- We suffer with all the world affected by the consequences of the year of constant war.
- We are sad for the innocent Russians who find themselves hemmed in and in an impossible place – and subject to propaganda and deceit.

- We lament the power of one man to perpetrate such evil and destruction

How long can they stand? How much must they endure?

Pause

Let us open our hearts to the living Word of God.

**Scripture:** Communal Psalm of Lament - 80:1-15;19

**Reflection:** Sister Dianne Bergant

**Silence**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the pleas of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine as they continue to defend their land and democracy amid great suffering.

Sing *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* while the intercessions are read.

1. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works, we pray.
2. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility, and goodness, we pray.
3. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows, and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion, we pray.
4. Hold in your everlasting embrace the Ukrainians and Russians who have died as a consequence of the war, we pray.
5. Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need, we pray.
6. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instill in us your strength, wisdom and understanding, we pray

(Continue with the chant 3 more times)

Trusting in God who has not forsaken the people of Ukraine, nor left us powerless in the face of this great evil, we renew our commitment to be a people of peace and a light in the darkness. Let us sing together the Prayer of St. Francis.