



Denounce Russian Invasion In Ukraine

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19

Russia has invaded Ukraine. It was an unprovoked and evil incursion. Innocent blood has been shed. As the world gazes on the cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, Pastor Debra Murray and the Social Action Team of the United Methodist Church of Palo Alto lift our voices to join our prayers with those of churches, people of faith and individuals all over the globe who denounce these actions and pray that the attack against Ukraine will fail. The United Methodist Social Principles state, “We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations.” We call for a cease fire and for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and wellbeing are in danger, and to make this Sunday a day of collective prayer and fasting for a peace that only God can bring.

Mother God,

Hear our lament today. With alarm and concern we bring before you the military intervention in Ukraine. In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we deplore the use of armed force. We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war. We pray for comfort for those who grieve, and pray that those who are fearful be held in your everlasting arms in this time of dread. *Shield and comfort them as they confront the*

terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dares to harm others made in your image.

Give us resolve to join Ukraine with our prayers, protests, and resources for those who so desperately need aid.

We lift these prayers before you in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Lord have mercy upon your children everywhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Murray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend Dr Debra Murray
First United Methodist of Palo Alto

Social Action Team
First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto