



Clarissa Ward, CNN: Kharikiv, Ukraine, Thursday February 24, 2022

Greetings!

Please read [Isaiah 26: 2-4; 7-12](#)

I was taken by the image above as I watched the unfolding invasion of Ukraine. The image of this small group gathering in the town square kneeling in prayer says all we need to say. Once again, war has invaded our living rooms. Let the images, the prayer and text do the speaking. May they wash over us.

Pope Francis has called the Christian World to Fast and Pray for Ukraine on Ash Wednesday. I am joining in, but I am praying for more than Ukraine; I am praying for the eradication of injustice in the world and my complicity in it. Won't you join Pope Francis' invitation?

[A Prayer for Ukraine](#)

Holy and Gracious God,

*We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia;
for their countries and their leaders.*

*We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting
arms hold them in this time of great fear.*

*We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for
all people life, and life in all its fullness.*

*We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your
people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.*

*We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and
courage of Christ.*

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.



Airstrike wounds woman near
Kharkiv, Ukraine, 2.24.22.
(Wolfgang Schwan/Anadolu
Agency/Getty Images)

Lord have mercy.

Amen

Please enjoy some music to bring us hope: [O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines](#)

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Todd D. Anderson, West Ohio Superintendent
Ohio River Valley District, United Methodist Church

