



The Methodist Church

Darlington & Teesdale Circuit (13/01)

MINISTER: Revd. Graham A. Cutler

Graham.Cutler@Methodist.org.uk

☎ 01833 638 272

24th February 2022

Dear Friends,

It was with a heavy heart we watched this morning's news to see the evil and unprovoked attack on Ukraine by President Putin and his forces.

As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers and peacekeepers, it is in this calling I invite the people of Darlington & Teesdale Methodist Circuit to continue in their earnest prayer for peace.

The Church of England has called for their people to make this Sunday a "day for prayer for Ukraine, Russia and for peace." Pope Francis has called for Ash Wednesday to be "a day of prayer and fasting for peace".

Whilst I understand that not all people can safely fast due to health reasons, we can all safely pray and suggest that as a Circuit we pray together and fast if able, for this moment to allow the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of all involved and bring dialogue and lasting peace. I offer you a prayer from the Methodist Church:-

Holy and Gracious God, we pray for the people of the 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. Lord have mercy. Amen

Yours In Christ

Revd. Graham A. Cutler