

A Prayer for the Children of the Ukraine

Pastor: O God, we are reminded in your word of the special place that children have in your heart. You say to us, "Let the children come unto me, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." **People: You are the Loving Parent, whose care extends to children all over the world. Today we remember those children in the Ukraine, through the words that have been shared with us today.**

Pastor: The Psalmist proclaims, "Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute." **People: You have called us to care for the widows and orphans, the destitute and the needy, both in this congregation and throughout the world.**

Pastor: We have heard the stories of the orphanages, and how many children fight for a chance to live a normal life. Your care runs deeply for them. May we reflect your love through our actions.

People: Show us the ways in which we should respond. Empower us to show acts of love and mercy. Use us as your humble servants.

Pastor: We acknowledge that in this country and throughout the world, there are social structures that devalue human worth. This, we know, is not your desire.

People: May your spirit transform these systems of oppression. May we regain a sense of the value of each human life.

Pastor: We ask your blessings upon Sheryl, and all those who have given themselves to your work in the Ukraine. Honor their sacrifice, and grant them strength to continue your work. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

All: Amen.