



To the People called Methodist,

The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step up. As people that want to promote peace as a way of life, we cannot ignore events between Russia and Ukraine. The invasion of a country, the suppression of its people and the annihilation of its culture is contrary to the Gospel imperative for all to have 'life in all its fullness'. We may feel helpless and powerless but we need to find ways to counter the narrative of aggression and to support by prayer and practical action the people of Ukraine. We cannot sit back, we need to step up.

The invasion of Ukraine also calls us to step back. As people who see peace not simply as absence of war, but as the shalom of struggle within all human relationships, we need to be mindful of the bigger picture. Offering hospitality to Ukrainian refugees is paramount, but we must not forget the needs and stories of other refugees from other countries. Whilst we want to support Ukrainians at this particular time we need to be alert to any tendency to privilege White Europeans when we offer hospitality. Compassion is always unconditional never selective.

The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step forward. We are surrounded by rhetoric, so we need to strive for truth. We need to be careful that we are not simply inhabiting the echo chamber of our own prejudices. Situations like this are complex and nuanced. We need to be mindful of hatred at every turn, not least towards the people of Russia. Whilst we are criticising oppressive and aggressive actions, we must not demonise a whole nation because of the actions of a despot. We must always step forward to challenge vitriol, even when it is directed to people whom the conflict styles as 'enemies'

The Methodist Peace Fellowship is calling all Methodists, all people of faith, all humanity to take steps of prophetic action in the face of the current invasion of Ukraine. We are compelled to step up, to step back and to step forward, with courage, insight and wisdom, mindful that all are loved equally in the light of God's love.

Please support the work of the Methodist Peace Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation and join us for prayers for Ukraine on zoom on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm: registration details at www.for.org.uk/ukraine

Yours Sincerely

Barbara

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President

The Methodist Peace Fellowship

www.mpf.org.uk