

Dear Headteachers,

The news from Ukraine has got worse over this weekend. It's likely that many of the pupils in your school will be aware of what is happening and be worried about it. We have created a simple collective worship with the theme '*God sees and God hears*' that you may wish to use, or adapt for your school. We think it should work with all age groups, including the oldest secondary students if you use appropriate language.

There are a set of slides, the script is in the notes below each slide but we have also saved it in a separate script.

Only you know what is the right response for the pupils in your school, you will need to take account of:

- The age of your pupils
- If you have any pupils from Eastern Europe, particularly Russia or Ukraine
- Pupils who may have relatives in the areas directly involved
- Pupils who may have left areas of tension and conflict for whom the events in Ukraine will trigger memories Afghanistan, Syria, Hong Kong,
- Pupils who have parents in the armed forces who may be concerned about their parents being deployed to the front line
- Pupils who have recently been bereaved

You may wish to listen to, or sing a song about peace. For example *Let there be Peace on Earth, or Peace is flowing Like a River*.

This '*Peace Prayer*' song was sent through by Jenni at Wonersh and Shamley Green. You have to 'buy it' but there is a 100% discount code!

<https://www.theschoolmusicalcompany.com/products/easter-songs-download-pack> You can access the backing track, lyrics and sheet music for free on the link above!

I have attached three prayer stations that have the theme of war and peace, I suggest that rather than making them specifically about Ukraine you leave the label more general so that pupils can reflect on other areas of conflict if they wish to do so.

I have also attached lovely painting by a Ukrainian artist that I came across over the weekend.

#### **A few useful facts.**

- We should call the country Ukraine, not *The* Ukraine. The Ukraine is what it was called when part of the Soviet Union.
- Kyiv is the Ukrainian spelling, Kiev is the Russian spelling
- The blue and yellow flag represents the wide blue sky and the wheat fields below
- Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine

#### **Some useful places for child appropriate information**

The best is BBC Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> the videos and features are constantly being updated.

Their *Advice If You Are Upset By The News* is helpful <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

This American website is useful [https://newsforkids.net/category/all\\_news/world/europe/](https://newsforkids.net/category/all_news/world/europe/)

We will continue to add material that may be helpful to our [Latest Collective Worship Resources](#) page as we find them.

Best wishes,

Jane and Rachel

**Canon Jane Whittington**

Guildford Diocese Schools Officer Christian Distinctiveness