

Almighty God, our God, Prince of Peace,  
    why do you allow war?  
Our sensibilities are shattered as a people living in peace are disrupted;  
    a despot invades their way of life.  
Like stampeding buffaloes, tanks roll in a path of destruction;  
    roads are paved with destroyed vehicles and ruin.  
Bombs fly like diving birds of prey, destroying homes;  
    rubble is strewn across the city.  
Striking like lightning, drones shoot missiles into communities;  
    children cry out in fright as their homes are destroyed – who shall comfort them?  
Streams of refugees flee on broken roads;  
    where are the hungry to find food, or the sick to find care?  
Places of healing and new life have become areas of death;  
    the blood of pregnant women and newborns mingles with the dust sifting down upon  
    them.  
The elite perpetrators laugh at the distress, like hyenas happy to feed upon their prey.  
    How long must the innocent be rended by the claws and teeth of those self-centered  
    animals?  
Are you not called the Prince of Peace? Where are your people to find you in the midst of  
    this?  
We cannot hit “Undo” on what has been done, and our pain and anger blind us to any  
    response beyond what we see directly in front of us.  
    Where are you, to show us a different response than lashing out in retaliative strikes?  
    Where are you, to teach the greedy how to share instead of take?  
    Where are you, to heal the broken in body, mind, and soul?  
Where is your saving grace as lives are shredded, with pieces strewn about like confetti?

Stop this war! Stop the fighting, the destruction, the killing!  
Turn the drones around, eliminate them from the sky!  
Demolish the tanks, drive them back to the country from whence they came!  
    Beat the weapons of war into tools of restoration and renewal.  
Break the hardened hearts of the greedy, those stretching to take what is not theirs:  
    teach them with first-hand experience why their attacks are wrong;  
    let them understand personally why destroying homes and families is an atrocity to be  
    prevented rather than pursued!  
Cause the soldiers to repent of what they do to their neighbors;  
    make them understand the truth of the unjustified terror they strew!  
    Let them turn back to their own country, bearing the truth to its citizens so that all may  
    know the evil their leader sows.  
Change the leadership! Overturn the heart of the despot or remove him;  
    remove evil from power, that the needs of people may be met instead of selfish wants!

Curse the greed, the hunger for power, the ambition that has cursed your people!  
Let there be peace again, cooperation instead of the tearing apart of neighboring states.  
Bring your love to bear, to drive out hate and to heal the wounds of war.

How can people live in harmony again if it takes love to drive out hate, but we are  
blinded with overwhelming anguish to only see the hate?  
How can we talk about heavenly justice when confronted with complete injustice?  
How can we talk about a loving God who allows unprovoked pain and suffering?  
How can we profess the *hesed* of our God, let alone convince others that you love all  
people, when war rends families and communities apart?  
Shall more profess atheism, saying, "There is no God," because you do not protect the  
innocent from annihilation?  
How can our faith reconcile your steadfast promise of love and peace with the terror and  
agony filling our senses?

Yet we know that you have blessed your people, providing grace for those who cry out to  
you.

The Israelites were redeemed multiple times, repeatedly brought back to the promised  
land and restored after so many of their children had been systematically murdered.

Your fledgling church survived great persecution to grow into a world power.

When your Church became too corrupt, you provided saints to redirect the faith.

Despite misuse of your name to justify genocide, your Word traveled to the ends of  
the earth.

When the war to end all wars ended, the world recovered.

The war after that ended with nuclear threat, and you enabled political balance to  
prevent world annihilation with atomic bombs.

With each devastation, you change the old into a new thing;  
from a remnant, you create a great nation.

Surely the One who conquered all sin can overcome this intense barrage of it;  
the Good Shepherd will carry his wounded sheep to a place of safety and relief.

I will trust in my Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I will proclaim your glory before all the people, praising your power and chasing your  
wisdom.

I will walk in the ways of the LORD, that the love of our God may shine through my  
actions as a beacon of hope in this time of darkness.