Father, today we pray for the escalating situation in Ukraine.

We confess that in times of such rapid change and on issues of such complexity, it can be difficult to know how to pray.

So we start with our praise and thanks to you, who remains steadfast and faithful, all-seeing and all-knowing.

We re-orientate ourselves in you, your timescales, your ways and your purposes.

We remind ourselves of your love for this earth you formed and those you created in your image.

We struggle to see clearly through confusion and misinformation, yet recognise an age-old lust for power, control and violence.

We pray for those already mourning, those who are fleeing homes and livelihoods, for those who are fearful and vulnerable.

We pray for intermediaries on the ground and those seeking to defend life and liberty. Blessed are the peacemakers.

Amidst the political posturing and frightening military action we pray for those involved in genuine diplomatic efforts to avert further bloodshed.

We remember how Jesus resisted being co-opted into the religious and political uprisings of competing empires. We remember how He spoke to heal the sick, calm the storm and raise the dead. We too pray that the name of God would not be invoked in destructive nationalistic ways. We pray for powerful words and miraculous actions – for de-escalation, peace and justice, repentance and restoration.

On earth as it is in heaven, and for our faithful witness until then,

Amen.