**Litany for a Just Peace**(based on Psalm 34:14b)

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One: Creator God, this world you brought into being, rather than manifesting the shalom of just peace you created it for, is instead filled with war, violence, oppression, and injustice.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: The war in Ukraine has wreaked destruction for over 18 months, with no end in sight.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: Until it is ended, that war carries the grave danger that it could escalate into the use of nuclear weapons, which threatens all life on this precious planet You have created.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: It is also killing huge numbers of people, both military and civilian, which will continue as the quagmire of the current military stalemate is likely to continue.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: Here in the United States, we continue to be plagued by mass shootings now averaging one per day, often committed with weapons of war--with few effective steps being taken to stop it.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: We continue to be plagued by an epidemic of disproportionate police violence against people of color, with only modest steps to reduce it to date.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

One: Economic injustice continues, such as the average White household having 13 times the wealth of the average Black household.

**All: Let us hear and respond to God’s call to be empowered: Seek peace and pursue it.**

**All:** Loving, redeeming, and liberating God, we pray that you will make us your instruments in seeking a just peace throughout your creation. Toward that end, we pray that you would challenge and empower us to be agents of transformation.