17 March 2022

Dear friends,

   We are Ukrainians and members of Faith & Light,
   Thank you all very much for your support, prayers and continuing to send proposals about places of welcome and suggestions on ways to help us.

   Today is the 21st day since Russian troops launched an offensive on Ukraine.
   Relations between our countries have been difficult for a long time. The war began for us in 2014, when Russia took Crimea and parts of Eastern Ukraine. When Russia launched a full attack on Ukraine February 24, 2022, it was without justification, and for us is simply an incomprehensible act. Large cities in the South, North and Central Ukraine are now being destroyed. These regions suffer greatly from air strikes and bombing.

   There were two Faith and Light communities in Kyiv - almost all of their members left for either Western Ukraine or Poland.
   Most of the communities in Lviv and Ternopil and other towns live with the hope the Russian army will not come to our areas.

   Our Faith & Light communities are made of civilians, parents, daughters and sons, friends and volunteers, who pray and do everything in their power to support Ukraine's defense.
   We hope the war will end very soon. Therefore, our community members want to stay in their homes. Moreover, for many who have left Ukraine they struggle with feeling like a traitor, others continue to put themselves at risk because they believe leaving Ukraine now means they are traitors.
   Two days ago, 30 missiles were fired on a military training center in Yavoriv near Lviv. All but eight of the missiles were stopped, but those eight missiles killed 35 people and more than 100 were injured.
   Members of our communities - leaders, friends and parents - are in territorial defense or at the front. We pray for them every day; we also read the news every day and worry.
   There are many civilian casualties today. We mourn and weep.

       Every day at 9 am to 9.05 we have a time of silence for all the victims of this brutal war.
   Our days are filled with news... and prayers

Ulyana from Lviv