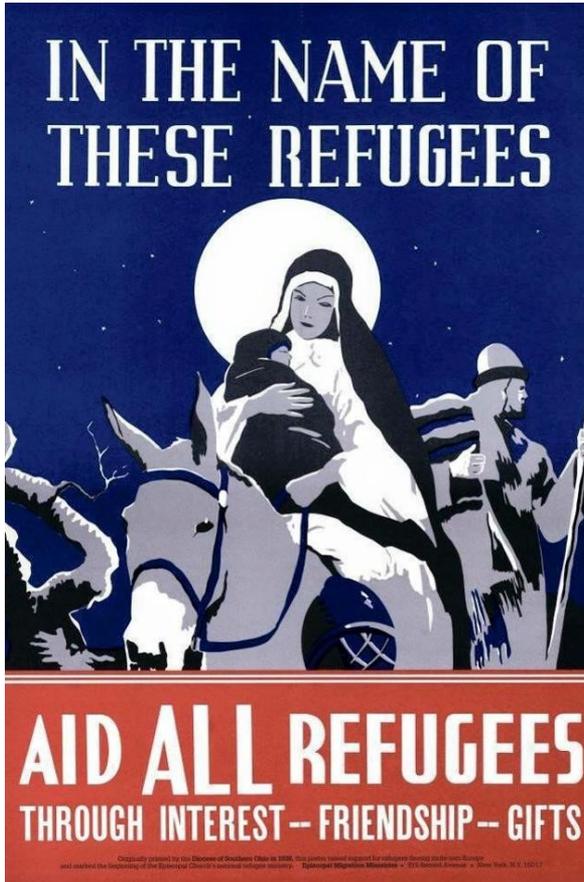


PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR REFLECTION



God of protection, whose Son fled violence from his own home with Joseph and Mary and sought refuge in a foreign land, hear the cries of all who suffer because of hatred, war, violence, greed, and famine. Help us to peacefully mend our divisions, that all you have created in this world may be whole. *Amen*

We are committed to working with the people of Syria and all others who are finding it necessary to flee oppressive regimes in their homelands, that God will provide them with the help and solace they need as they seek out places of peace, solitude, and welcome.

We seek the grace of God as the people of Christ Church while we discern our role in helping to provide assistance, shelter, and welcome to all refugee people, especially those fleeing the country of Syria.

You are invited to read through this booklet and find the prayers and scripture that touch your heart. Included you will find prayers for the open and close of day, a grace to be prayed with meals, some especially to be prayed in community or with family, and Scripture to reflect on while considering God's call to care for refugees and strangers.

We hope this booklet will be a helpful part of your discernment process as you consider your personal call within this ministry or however the Holy Spirit leads you.



ADVENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AT CHRIST CHURCH

For the people of Syria and all others who find it necessary to flee oppressive regimes and violence in their homelands, we pray that God will provide them with sustenance and solace as they seek new homes of safety, peace, and welcome.

Lord hear our prayer

For the people of Christ Church, we pray for discernment of our call to provide compassionate assistance, shelter, and welcome to our refugee brothers and sisters, especially those fleeing the country of Syria. We pray for the Holy Spirit to light the way.

Lord hear our prayer

He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:29-37)

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *BCP*

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:25-36)

A Morning Prayer

Peace where there is war

Healing where there is hurt

Memory where we have forgotten the other.

Vision where there is violence

Light where there is madness

Sight where we have blinded each other.

Comfort where there is sorrow

Tears where there is hardness

Laughter where we have missed life's joy

Laughter when we remember this joy.

J. Phillip Newell

A Nighttime Prayer

Our heart is comforted

In its awareness of You

Soul within our soul

Life within all life.

Our heart is comforted

In remembering You

Giver of this day

Gift of every moment.

May we be bearers of comfort.

May we be strong in our soul

To cry at the wrongs of nations

To weep at the bleeding earth

To mourn with those who mourn this night

In the loss of life and lands

In the loss of dreams and hope.

May we be strong in our soul this night.

J. Phillip Newell

Love Refugees As Yourself

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Leave Food for the Poor and the Foreigner

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. (Leviticus 19:9-10)

God Loves the Foreigner Residing Among You

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

The Sin of Sodom: They Did Not Help the Poor and Needy

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. (Ezekiel 16:49)

Do Not Oppress a Foreigner

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

Do Not Deprive Foreigners Among You of Justice

"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:5)

Do Whatever the Foreigner Asks of You

“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (1 Kings 8:41-44)

Leave Your Door Open to the Traveler

No stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler (Job, discussing his devotion to God) (Job 31:32)

Invite the Stranger In

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ (Matthew 25:25-36)

We Were All Baptized By One Spirit

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14)

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BCP

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel in search of refuge; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BCP

A Table Grace

Gracious God, Spirit of all seasons, your strength and power allows us to bear the sometimes bitter cold harshness and the uncertainty of life with grace and hope.

This winter day, we feel gratitude for the warming energies of Earth and we in turn, are warmed by the love shared at this table.

With thankful hearts, we offer our prayers to you, our Caring, Just One.

Sunday: Awaken us to see that the protection of earth's vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Monday: Sustain us as we become the bridge that lessens the gap between rich and poor, between justice and injustice.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Tuesday: Give us the courage and will to speak out against corrupt and unjust governments around the world.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Wednesday: Enlighten our minds to see that human development is about being more, not having more.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Thursday: Give us the humility to work together with varying points of view to forge inclusive, thoughtful decisions.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Friday: Sustain us through the dark and painful times, lest we become discouraged; give us patience to continue our work for the good of all creation. All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

Saturday: Renew within us, your creative powers; open us to new ways of transforming hearts and minds.

All: *Divine Presence, hear our prayer.*

For Morning and Evening

The Lord's Prayer (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and
come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for
ever.

Amen

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES
OR JOURNALING

