

Prayers for Immigrants and Refugees

Here I Am, Lord

Lord, I am here to thank you for my life.

For calling me to be an instrument of accompaniment.

An instrument to make a difference wherever I am.

Lord, open my ears so I can listen in silence and thus be able to hear the needs of my sisters and brothers.

Lord, give me the strength to never give up, even if darkness appears.

Perhaps it's only me to start, but you are with me.

Lord, give the wisdom to continue being an instrument that listens, gives hope, and accompanies.

Thank you Lord because through service, you fill me with joy.

Lord, I am ready to go to the peripheries.

Be my partner, my guide, my everything.

Amen.

Consuelo Sandoval, Pastoral Migratoria, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Chicago

A Prayer for Migrants

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating
particularly those who are forced from their homes
or separated from their families

because of threats of violence and persecution.

We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries,
and have our origins in different cultures,
we were created by you, and are made in your image
and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity
that is deserving of respect.

Lord we ask that you give us the strength
to defend those who are marginalized,
to give aid to those in need,
to come to the defense of those
who are poor or vulnerable,
and to welcome those who are on the move
into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever.
Amen

Dios bueno y clemente,
Oremos por todas las personas que inmigran,
especialmente, por aquellas que son
forzadas a dejar sus hogares o
amenazadas de violencia y persecucion.
Te pedimos que las protejas y las pongas
a salvo.
Aunque vengamos de distintos paises,
y nuestro origen se encuentre en
diferentes culturas,
todos hemos sido creados por ti y hemos
sido hechos a tu imagen y semejanza,
por lo tanto, todos compartimos una
dignidad inalienable que merece respeto.
Senor, te rogamos que nos des las fuerzas
para defender a los marginados
para ayudar a los necesitados,
para salir en defense de los mas pobres y
vulnerables,
y para acoger a aquellos que llegaran a
nuestros hogares y a nuestro corazon.
Por nuestro Senor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,
que vive y reina contigo,
en la unidad del Espiritu Santo, un Dios,
por los siglos de los siglos.
Amen

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

O Holy Spirit of comfort and eternal presence: spread over us, your weary and anxious people, your protective and reassuring wings, that we might be delivered from our fears of one another: that we might experience the exhilarating freedom of welcoming even strangers without defensiveness, hostility, or suspicion, but rather with openness, hospitality, and the expectation of friendship. In the Name of Jesus, who welcomes all.

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

O God of all nations and peoples: We live in a nation of immigrants, and one in which the diverse gifts of many peoples have contributed to our energy and strength. Yet it is one in which some immigrants are discriminated against because of the color of their skin, their language, or the country of their origin. Help us, by your grace, to offer hospitality to all strangers, as our Father Abraham did in the desert. Grant us the wisdom and skill to enact just and merciful immigration reforms so that the hospitality and access to this great land may be offered equally to people of all colors and races and nations.

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

An Immigrants Prayer

O holy God, we praise You and give You thanks for Your blessings on all immigrants, on those who cross all the borders in the United States. And you, O Lady of Guadalupe, empress of the Americas, be always our protector and intercessor for reconciliation and the building of equality and peace.

Amen.

O bendito Dios, te alabamos y te damos gracias por tus bendiciones a todos los inmigrantes, los que cruzan todas las fronteras de Estados Unidos. A ti Señora de Gaudalupe, emperatriz de las Américas, seas siempre nuestra protectora y mediadora para la reconciliación y construcción de la igualdad y la paz.

Amén.

Remigio Hernández

A Prayer For Immigrant Justice

Blessed are You, Lord God, King of all creation. Through Your goodness, we live in this land that You have so richly blessed. Help us always to recognize our Blessings come from You and remind us to share them with others, especially those who come to us today from other lands.

Help us to be generous, just, and welcoming, as You have been and are generous to us.

Prayer for Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ.

You crossed every border
between Divinity and humanity
to make your home with us.

Help us to welcome you in newcomers,
migrants and refugees.

Blessed are You, God of all nations.

You bless our land richly
with goods of creation
and with people made in your image.

Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers,
who live as your children.

Blessed are You, Holy Spirit.

You work in the hearts of all
to bring about harmony and goodwill.

Strengthen us to welcome those
from other lands, cultures, religions,
that we may live in human solidarity
and in hope.

God of all people, grant us vision
to see your presence in our midst,
especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Give us courage to open the door to our neighbors
and grace to build a society of justice.

Pax Christi

Immigration Prayer

Creator God,
open our eyes so we can see you in the eyes of our immigrant brothers and sisters,
eyes downcast for having lived so long in the shadows,
eyes challenging us to join them in the streets or picket lines,

eyes lifted looking for the Christ light in us.
Compassionate God, who has come to dwell among us,
open our ears to hear the cries of your children,
children being separated from their parents,
rounded up in raids,
led to detention centers,
silently giving up dreams.
God of Justice, who crosses all boundaries,
give us courage to resist, to say NO
to unfair labor practices,
to unjust laws .
Give us the strength to stand with and for
your inclusive love,
faith to believe,
another world is necessary and possible.
Let it begin with us.

United Church of Christ

Spirit of life, immigrant adults and children have traveled far from home with faith, hope and courage. Many have had terrifying and abusive experiences. We ask that they be comforted and blessed with healing and wholeness. May all levels government, faith communities and organizations work with a spirit of compassion and cooperation so that they may receive the best care possible. Allow resources to be released through generous donations for their food, shelter, healthcare and personal needs. May it be so.

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants

For the Nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

For Social Justice

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.

The Book of Common Prayer

For Social Justice

Almighty God, you have created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

Praying for Refugees and Displaced People Worldwide

As we continue to witness the most widespread refugee crisis since World War II, we remember that the stories of our tradition are stories of wandering, of flight, of forced migration. Our Holy Scriptures tell us of the sojourns of the people of God – of slavery and persecution, of wandering in the wilderness, of exile and loss.

Today, as we pray for the Church and for the world, we remember our own sacred stories and how they call us to live in God's world, to bring forth God's dream of shalom.

With all our heart and all our mind, let us pray to our God, saying, "Lord, hear us." Sovereign God, may we who are the Body of Christ, the Church, embrace and welcome the immigrant, the refugee, and all who seek shelter from any danger. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

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. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

God Who makes us One, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world, that those who govern the people and have authority over them may consider each life to be of value and may serve the people of their nation with equity and fairness, dedicating themselves to peaceful resolution of conflict. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

Loving God, there is no one that goes unnoticed in Your eyes. Take into Yourself all who suffer. May Christ the Wounded Healer relieve the pain of hunger of the refugee, heal the afflicted body, soothe the fears of the mind, bring peace to the soul, and be tender with the broken hearted, that those who have endured unspeakable trials may find themselves restored in Christ. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

Eternal God, may you receive those who have died during times of war and violence into your loving and peaceful arms and may they find rest for their souls. Comfort those who mourn the loss of their friends and loved ones and give them relief from the painful memories they bear, giving assurance of eternal life. We lift our prayer to You,

People: ***Lord, hear us.***

Almighty and Loving God, you who have crossed the boundaries of Heaven and Earth to be with your people, visit those who must flee their homes because of violence and oppression and lead them to a land of safety. We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

We give thanks to you, Source of All Being, that you hear our intercessions on behalf of our refugee brothers and sisters. We thank you that love swallows fear, that in your compassion we learn to walk with those who suffer, that when we give of ourselves we receive far more, and that when we receive those who stand knocking at our doors, we receive Christ the Beloved One. May all praise, glory and honor be to our God, the Most High.

Amen.

Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Director, Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Prayer for Refugees

God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with refugees in our local communities and around the world. Be with all who are in fear. Be with those whose lives and livelihoods are under threat, and whose religious freedoms are being compromised. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support of refugees. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may bend toward peace and not division, and that they might realize the power they hold to do justice. Give us all strength and courage. Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and bearers of hope, especially for those seeking refuge. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

Refugee Community Center at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator (Allentown), Diocese of Bethlehem