

Immigration through the Lens of Faith



A Prayer for Immigrants

Source of Life who is known by many names;

Over-turner and illuminator of hearts;

We gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it.

We are give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation.

Support for those without support;

Stronghold of those without protection;

We declare openly the times we have fallen short

From living out the call to justice our sacred stories place upon us;

From hearing the plight of the creation yearning for justice;

From seeing the harm our way of life and our policies inflict upon the creation.

Source of Wisdom who is known by many names;

The Prophet Mohammed asks: What actions are most excellent?

To gladden the heart of a human being;

To feed the hungry;

To help the afflicted;

To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful;

To remove the wrongs of the injured;

Let us not forget.

The Psalmist asks: Who is fit to hold power and worthy to act in God's place?

Those with a passion for the truth, who are horrified by injustice;

Who act with mercy to the poor and take up the cause of the helpless;

Who have let go of selfish concerns and see the whole creation as sacred.

Let us not forget.

Jesus, carpenter of Nazareth, asks: What is the greatest commandment?

To love your creator;

To love your neighbor;

To undermine oppressive powers with life-giving actions;

To be in solidarity with all who suffer;

To act for justice;

And to teach others to act for justice

Let us not forget.

Source of Justice who is known by many names;

Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented;

Not as threats, but as brothers and sisters whose dignity is tied to our own dignity;

And whose lack of freedom calls into question our own freedom;

The farm worker, the hotel maid, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker and so many others.

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Source of Justice who is known by many names;

Today we stand in solidarity with all those across this nation living in sanctuary as a result of unjust and inhumane policies.

Today we say: "Presente," with our sister Elvira Arellano whose plight for true immigration reform has galvanized a movement.

Today we claim our place among those who struggle for justice in the canvas of history.

Let us not swerve from the path of righteousness that leads to just and equitable relationship.

Give us the courage to stand with those crossing our borders;

Living in the shadows;

Risking all to support their families;

Escaping the economic oppression and political persecution our policies have spurred;

Give us the strength to confront the prejudice and intolerance of those who are fearful;

And respond by closing our borders to those who sojourn seeking life and opportunity;

Give us the will to leave behind and open up the safety of our sanctuaries and temples;

That our voice, our heart, our spirit will join the voice, heart and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice and peace;

And that our buildings of worship may be known as a place of refuge and respite.

Source of Direction who is known by many names;

In our daily living let us be guided;

By the highest estimate of the worth and dignity of every person regardless of their legal status;

And let us not forget;

That the creation is founded on justice;

And that we have the moral responsibility to bring forth justice into these times.

May it be so.

By Rev. Jessica Vazquez Torres