

Migration with Dignity Sunday

Prayers of the People

Note: Many petitions are offered below. Participating congregations may choose which ones they would like to use, keeping in mind these categories required by the BCP.



Prayer is offered with intercession for:

- The Universal Church, its members and its mission
- The Nation and all in authority
- The welfare of the world
- The Concerns of the local community
- Those who suffer and those in any trouble
- The departed BCP, p. 383

Some response options:

Intercessor: Let us pray to the Lord. *Response:* **Lord, have mercy**

Intercessor: We pray to you, O Lord. *Response:* **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: God, in your mercy. *Response:* **Hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the People

God of justice and compassion, be present with us as we celebrate our beautiful human family on this Migration with Dignity Sunday and help us to strive for justice and peace for all who suffer worldwide as they seek safety and peace.

For your church and its leaders, that they may have wisdom, courage, and strength to resist systems that oppress, harm, and imprison immigrants physically, mentally, and spiritually. (RESPONSE)

For The Episcopal Church's members, clergy, and seminarians who are immigrants or have close ties to immigrant communities and now fear for their futures and families. Surround them with support and wrap them in peace. (RESPONSE)

For our nation and its leaders, especially those in charge of immigration laws and policy, that they may affirm and act on the truth that all human beings deserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and treat migrants with dignity and compassion. (RESPONSE)

For the millions of people who have left homes to search for safety, dignity, and basic human needs. Help each of us to practice empathy by sharing our lives and resources with those who are displaced. (RESPONSE)

For those traveling to find freedom, that they may be safe as they encounter jungles, rivers, deserts and unbearable dangers, and that all may welcome travelers with love. (RESPONSE)

For those suffering in [this detention center] and in similar facilities in the U.S., in El Salvador, and across the world. Bring an end to the immigrant detention system so that all migrating persons can pursue a future in the U.S. without the trauma and abuses of incarceration. Give all who are detained, and their loved ones, a strong sense of your presence and hope in your promises of liberation. (RESPONSE)

For those who manage shelters and other safe places for migrating persons, especially children and mothers, that they may enjoy abundant provision for all of their needs.(RESPONSE)

For all who have been punished and degraded in their home country for who they are and whom they love. Teach us to shelter and protect one another. (RESPONSE)

For our siblings who are fleeing peril or experiencing peril in the United States, especially the victims of wars, gang violence, and terrorism. Help us not to hide from their pain; but instead recognize their suffering as our own. (RESPONSE)

For all who are losing their resources and livelihoods because of global climate change and must find new places to live. Help us to protect the environment so that all people everywhere can thrive. (RESPONSE)

For your beloved who have died while seeking safety, while in ICE custody, or while resisting injustice, and all of us who mourn them, that they may find rest in your arms where there is no pain, grief, or tears. (RESPONSE)

For misconceptions, fears, and 'otherness' that keep us separated from each other, forgive us. Help us to display the unity our world so desperately needs. (RESPONSE)

For all who struggle to adapt to languages and cultures that are new to them, may God grant continued determination and hope. (RESPONSE)

For the labor, talents, and contributions of immigrants; keep us grateful. (RESPONSE)

For those who must leave home countries because of the dire conditions that originate from global systems rooted in colonialism, racism, and exploitation. (RESPONSE)

For all of the love and hard work that migrating persons bring to their new communities. May our hearts be filled with respect and thanks. (RESPONSE)

For children separated from their parents because of immigration policy. May they be reunited, and may their trauma be healed. (RESPONSE)

For those who work along national borders and in the immigrant detention system, that they experience protection from danger, healing of moral and spiritual injury, and new opportunities for life-giving work. (RESPONSE)

For the holy families who are refugees, just as Jesus, Mary and Joseph were refugees. May we see the sacredness of their accomplishments, their resilience, and their hope. (RESPONSE)

For all victims of human trafficking, forced from place to place to be exploited. May they have access to freedom and recovery. (RESPONSE)

For the descendants of the first people who lived in North America, most of whom were killed or forced to migrate across the continent by people who had lighter skin. May all other persons recognize these tragedies and their shared responsibility to bring justice. (RESPONSE)

For the enslaved persons who were forced to migrate across the ocean like merchandise, whose humanity was denied by people who misused Scripture, and for their descendants who continue to be slandered and abused. May God help the rest of us take responsibility for repairing as much damage as possible. (RESPONSE)

For an end to cartels and gangs that prey on the vulnerabilities of migrating persons. May they repent of the harm they cause, make amends, and find belonging in restorative communities. (RESPONSE)

For those who live in fear because of the false narratives they have heard about immigration, may God's love cast out fear. (RESPONSE)

For judges and courthouse staff, that they remain steadfast in upholding the rule of the law, unimpeded by hostile pressures or disruptions. (RESPONSE)

For those unsure of how to speak up for migrants in their families, congregations, and communities, may the Holy Spirit give wisdom and words of truth. (RESPONSE)

For all who fight for immigrant justice, especially detained organizers and the advocates and attorneys walking alongside them. Fill them with divine courage and righteousness. (RESPONSE)

Concluding Collect:

Merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins both known and unknown and in your mercy hear all our prayers.