



Responsive Prayer for Asylum Seekers at Our Border

Written by Rev. Martha Jolly, Retired Disciples Clergy, Missouri – currently on site at the border in Brownsville and Matamoros. Prayed on February 14, 2020 as part of a “Faith4Asylum” Interfaith Prayer Circle in Xeriscape Park, Brownsville, Texas.

One: Holy One, we cry out for the injustice, fear, suffering and heartbreak of families denied their human right to asylum. We come today to pray and proclaim a faith that calls us to stand with our immigrant siblings. God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Creator, you command us to love you and all you have created and called beloved, especially those most vulnerable. Yet just a few hundred yards from us children and families are not allowed access to the care they need. Children like Samy, a sweet 7 year-old with a genetic disorder who may live 10 short years, if she’s lucky, has spent half of her 7th year in a refugee camp because of MPP. Our faith calls us to stand with Samy and other children and families who are forced to stay in Matamoros, and to advocate for their release. God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Our sacred texts name hospitality as Holy Work. They say, “hold up the light of welcome to all in need of shelter, food, protection... and let them come in!” And yet, faced with grave danger, families flee their homelands seeking legal asylum, and are turned away at our border. Our faith calls us to stand alongside our brothers and sisters to advocate for their safety and humanity. God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayer.

One: God of Justice, we dare to pray for fair hearings, and immigration courts that uphold due process. Yet we have seen the “tent courts,” immigrants (including children) standing alone with no lawyer. We have heard the judges ask if they understand the “charges,” as if seeking asylum was a crime. We have seen the results of policies that escalate returns without legal access to protections, such as “PACR” and “HARP” at the airport in Brownsville, as immigrants in chains are loaded onto planes like criminals. Our faith calls us to witness this injustice and to advocate for due process and a stop to deadly deportations. God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayer

One: Merciful One, for moms like Emma, who make the heartbreaking decision to send their children across the border alone, we pray for peace of mind. We pray for safe passage and enfolding grace for each unaccompanied minor, that they reach the loving arms of family.

Our faith calls us to show up with tangible care and advocacy along each child's journey.

God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Spirit of Love, we ask a blessing for each one who migrates. As we say their names, weave your presence around them. Hold them in your embrace, wherever their journey takes them. We pray for these beloved ones as we say their names aloud with one voice... (say names of immigrants together) God of Many Names...

All: Hear our prayers.

One: As together we seek your love and justice, we say, AMEN.

All: Amen

To learn more about Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, contact Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea at

sstanley@dhm.disciples.org & go to:

<https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>

To participate in seeking justice for asylum seekers through our #Faith4Asylum project, go to:

www.faith4asylum.com

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