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MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Prayers of the People: Praying for Refugees and Displaced People Worldwide

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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.



Refugee Facts

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN refugee agency, there are now more than 60 million refugees and displaced people worldwide. This is the largest number of refugees the world has known anytime since World War II.

There are three durable solutions for refugees: repatriation, integration, and resettlement. Thankfully, in many cases, refugees are able to repatriate or return to their home countries once the conflicts there have ceased and civil society has stabilized. Other refugees, who may not be able to return home, are able instead to integrate into the country of first asylum – the country to which they fled for safety. The remaining group of refugees – less than 1 in 100 refugees – is resettled to another nation.

The United States resettles more refugees than all other resettlement countries combined through a process that involves many committed partners. These include UNHCR; the International Organization for Migration (IOM); several U.S. governmental bodies, including the President of the United States, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and Congress; nine national resettlement agencies, including Episcopal Migration Ministries; and a host of other refugee-serving organizations.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is the refugee resettlement service of The Episcopal Church – a living example of the Church’s commitment to be a presence of hope, comfort, and welcome to refugees. Each year, Episcopal Migration Ministries provides a wide spectrum of services, including resettlement, employment, and intensive medical and mental health services, to more than 6,500 refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and Cuban/Haitian entrants. These new Americans receive assistance as they rebuild their lives in security and peace in 30 communities across the United States. In addition to Episcopal Migration Ministries’ collaboration with local affiliate partners to welcome and serve arriving refugees, EMM staff members equip, support, and empower dioceses, congregations, and individuals to learn about and find their own place in the welcoming ministry of refugee resettlement.

If you, your congregation, or your diocese would like more information about Episcopal Migration Ministries’ work and ways you can be involved, please contact Allison Duvall, manager for church relations and engagement, at aduvall@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6027.

Additional information, videos, and resources about The Episcopal Church’s refugee resettlement work through Episcopal Migration Ministries may be found at www.episcopalmigrationministries.org.

