

## **Worship Litanies for Immigration Awareness**

### **Call to Awareness**

**ONE:** Today, more than 12 million immigrants living in the United States find themselves without the hope of becoming citizens and reuniting with family members. Yet many of them have lived and worked in our communities for years performing tasks that enhance our quality of life. They are our friends. They are our family. They are us.

**ALL:** Oh God open our eyes that we may see, open our ears that that we may hear and soften our hearts that we may have compassion for the least of these. For we were once strangers and you invited us in.

**ONE:** Mothers and fathers lament the lost of their children who have vanished into the sea, the desert and the unknown. They are lost in the detention centers. They are hiding in fear. They have died on the journey. They are our friends. They are our family. They are us.

**ALL:** Oh God open our eyes that we may see, open our ears that that we may hear and soften our hearts that we may have compassion for the least of these. For we were once strangers and you invited us in.

**ONE:** They have come from all over the world at the beckoning of mother liberty's call to the tired and poor huddled masses yearning to breathe free. They found no welcome at Ellis Island, no line to stand in. They are our friends. They are our family. They are us.

**ALL:** Oh God open our eyes that we may see, open our ears that that we may hear and soften our hearts that we may have compassion for the least of these. For we were once strangers and you invited us in.

## **Worship Litanies for Immigration A Call to Action**

### **Call to Action**

**ONE:** God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what is required of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God

**ALL:** We pray for our politicians and decision makers that they may develop an immigration reform policy rooted in love, reflects mercy, is consistent with humanitarian values, supports families, provides a pathway to citizenship for workers already in the U.S., and examines solutions to address the root causes of migration.

**ONE:** God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what is required of you but to do justice

**ALL:** As Christians in a society still divided by race and increasingly divided into haves and have nots, we pray for and affirm a vision of community in which every neighbor is valued as a child of God and all neighbors have enough. In a world fractured by suspicion of those who are “other,” we have heard and adhere to the command to welcome the strangers even as Christ has welcomed us.<sup>1</sup>

**ONE:** God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what is required of you but to love kindness.

**ALL:** God of grace, love and mercy we seek your guidance on this issue of great importance. Give us wisdom, compassion and courage. Let us be instruments of your miracle working power to heal this broken world.

**ONE:** God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what is required of you but to walk humbly with your God.

**ALL:** We commit ourselves in love, hope and faith to be the heart, hands, feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ.

*Litanies written by Rev. Aundreia Alexander, Esq. National Coordinator-Office of Immigration and Refugee Services, American Baptist Home Mission Societies.*

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<sup>1</sup> Paraphrased from joint letter from the National Council of Churches, USA and Church World Service signed by communion members dated February 16, 2010.