

## Lesson I Opening Prayer

### *Prayers of Intercessions for Refugees<sup>1</sup>*

Gracious and loving God, you have created every person in your image and filled us with the breath of life. We pray particularly this day for our brothers and sisters whose lives have been shattered by war, persecution, and natural disasters and who find themselves without a home in this tumultuous world.

*Hear us, Good Lord.*

Remembering the homelessness of Moses and the People of Israel as they wandered the wilderness seeking a safe place to live, we pray for all displaced persons, whose homes have disappeared behind them, whose hope is drained, whose resting places are tents and camps.

We pray for people in Yemen, Palestine, Syria and Iraq.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Remembering that our Savior began his life with a flight with his parents to Egypt seeking safety, we pray for all who flee the horrors of war, hatred, and oppression.

We pray for people in Somalia, Libya, Afghanistan, Sudan and Eritrea.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Remembering the welcome which Abraham and Sarah gave the three strangers to their tent, a welcome which brought immeasurable blessing which changed the world, we pray for all people who welcome and care for strangers in need.

We pray for people in Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Remembering the loving welcome which the “woman of ill repute” gave to Jesus in the house of the Pharisee, remind us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome you.

We pray for the Rohingya refugees and for all who suffer persecution in all its ugly forms.

*Hear us, Good Lord.*

Remembering the kindness of the Good Samaritan and the persistence of the Samaritan woman at the well, both foreigners in Jesus’ world, we pray for all those whose kindness brings healing to the world, and whose persistence brings justice to the most marginalized.

We pray for the people of Burundi, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Remembering the fear of the disciples on Good Friday when the future seemed lost and death seemed triumphant, we pray for all who live in fear for their lives day by day.

We pray for all the uncounted homeless of the world.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Remembering Saint Paul’s words that there is no longer Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free, and Saint John’s words that love is the heart of the matter, strengthen all those who work daily to bring your vision of the world to the lives of those most in need.

We pray for all who are living in refugee camps throughout the world and for all those who seek to make those camps places of life and hope, for the medical staff and relief workers who give their lives for others.

*Hear us Good Lord.*

Holy God, our source and our eternal rest, receive these prayers into your heart and send forth your Spirit to the ends of the earth that all people may be led into the paths of peace and strengthened for lives of wholeness and joy, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: These prayers of intercession were composed by the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Cranston, Rhode Island, The Rev. Michael Coburn, Rector, on the occasion of the congregation’s observation of World Refugee Day, 20 June, 2018.