

ESCAPE

A call and response prayer for those escaping

LEADER: 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.

ALL: We ask for your protection over those facing persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.

LEADER: We pray your healing balm on the painful heartache of fleeing home and neighborhood, leaving friends, jobs, schools behind for the unknown hostility of another land.

ALL: We pray that you protect and preserve the lives of those who are running even now. May your angels surround their families as they walk through dangerous territory, risk smugglers, or climb into rickety rafts in desperate attempts to seek safety.

LEADER: Guardian of life, you see and love each image bearer on the move. Holy Spirit, hover over each person, guide and protect them. May those who flee, find people of faith to offer them rest, food, safety and hope. God of Peace, we place before your throne these nations in turmoil and war: Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ukraine.

ALL: We pray rivers of peace flood every corner of every tormented land. We pray you frustrate the plans of the wicked, those who seek destruction and exploitation.

LEADER: Defender of widows and orphans.

ALL: Protector of the poor.

LEADER: Shelter of the stranger:

ALL: Move in mighty ways, raise your right arm and quell violence that pushes the most vulnerable to the edges. We pray violence to cease, for justice to prevail, for leaders in authority to consider each life one of value in need of protection. We pray you raise up leaders of integrity who govern with justice and care for their people.

LEADER: God of Love, there is no one that goes unnoticed in Your eyes. Wrap your arms around all who suffer, in particular those with disabilities, unaccompanied children, widows and the elderly.

ALL: We pray Christ the Wounded Healer relieve the pain of hunger, heal the afflicted body, soothe the fears of the mind, bring peace to the soul, and be tender with the broken hearted who weep for their dead.

LEADER: For those who are too old, too sick, or too poor to run to safety, we plead your sheltering wings to cover and restore.

ALL: For those who have been forced to flee multiple times, who are exhausted by the endless cycles of displacement, panic and fear we call down your Spirit to lift them on eagles' wings.

OH LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.



DISPLACEMENT

A call and response prayer for displaced people

LEADER: We remember before God all those who have been uprooted from their homes and communities – people who are compelled to flee for their lives, to leave their land and culture, and wait in camps or cities, suspended in time.

ALL: With them, we mourn their loss of dignity, community, resources, and employment.

LEADER: We especially pray for refugee women & girls who are uniquely vulnerable in lawless places. We remember the work that women do to keep families together, to nurture community.

ALL: We pray for the widow, the single mother, we ask your special protection over their tents.

LEADER: We remember the 47 million globally displaced children whose lives are marked by danger and exploitation.

ALL: We mourn the loss of education, loss of childhood and loss of belonging. We pray your hand to shield each one, trusting in your provision for their future.

LEADER: We remember those that do not have enough to eat, who rely on aid to feed their families. God who fed his people in the desert, turned water into wine, multiplied fish and loaves we call on your provision for each hungry belly.

ALL: Sustainer of Life, we pray: Nourishment for the malnourished. Vitamins, minerals, calories for growing bodies. Strong immune systems and protection from disease. In a world of plenty, we mourn that millions go without and ask for equitable distribution of food and resources.

LEADER: We thank you for the unique skills, talents and passions you create in each person. For would-be doctors, scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs and artists we pray you make a way for dreams to flourish. The dignity of work and ability to provide for family is denied to the many who are waiting-we pray for inclusive local economies and opportunities to earn.

ALL: For stifled ambition, crushed plans and loss of hope in the future - we pray that you would provide in ways that would help people meet their God given potential. Giver of Life, we pray for abundant life in the shattered places.

LEADER: We pray for men, women and children who live in perpetual waiting. For the millions who cannot go back. For the millions who cannot go forward. We pray for your comforting presence in the unknown middle.

ALL: Grant peace and favor as families work their way through laborious systems. As years pass, as time slips away, we ask you to provide deep and lasting hope.

OH LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.



RESETTLEMENT

A call and response prayer for resettled refugees and our elected leaders

LEADER: We are grieved by the decision to suspend the US refugee admissions program and plead before you King of Kings for a swift reversal.

ALL: To the God who softened the heart of King Xerxes to save his people, we pray for your intervention in the hearts of those who now lead our nation.

LEADER: We pray for righteous men and women in the places where decisions are being made. May their voices be bold and persuasive.

ALL: We pray the administration recognizes and acts on the moral imperative to welcome the stranger. We pray that new policies place value on human worth and dignity regardless of immigration status.

LEADER: God of Provision, we pray for those newly arrived families whose services have been cut as the administration reneges on its commitment. We pray for your provision to meet their needs confident that you richly bless.

ALL: We pray for first days at school, for first trips on the bus, first English classes and first jobs-ease the stress of navigating new systems, language and culture. We pray for legal documents to arrive on time, for rapid benefit approval, for jobs that fully meet needs.

LEADER: God of the Lonely, give friends at school, provide friendships for stay-at-home mums, for dads who bear the load, provide support. For families in our communities waiting for reunification with loved ones, who now weep as that hope is deferred, we pray your comforting presence infuse their homes.

ALL: Defender God, we ask for your presence in courtrooms where unaccompanied immigrant children are left without legal counsel. We plead for voices to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. God of Justice, turn your eyes towards the defenseless and come to their rescue.

LEADER: God of the foreigner, God of the sojourner; we come before you, lifting up the immigrant Church Communities of those who have left their homelands, yet have found a family of faith in your house. In this hour of uncertainty, when fear tries to paralyze, while policies threaten and injustice looms, we ask that you send your Spirit to comfort, protect and empower your church.

ALL: We are your body-when one suffers, we all share in the tears of grief and lament. Lord, make your presence known among your people. We pray for your Church, for the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty: forgive us.

LEADER: God who triumphed over fear, we pray for courage to step into the uncomfortable, to use our voices to advocate and act in ways that honor your heart for the stranger. Give your Church wisdom to respond in this time with clarity and compassion.

ALL: God of Belonging, we intercede for those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence. We pray they may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community, welcomed in by your people, welcomed by you Jesus.

OH LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

