

IMMIGRATION COURT PRAYER VIGIL FROM ST CAMILLUS CHURCH, SILVER SPRING, MD



Prayer Witness

We lift up our souls in praise and prayer to you, O God.

We stretch out our arms in prayer for our immigrant sisters and brothers, O God



Opening Song: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved some one like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Leader: Let us pray:

“Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference,
Open our eyes to the suffering of our brothers and sisters who are migrants,
Free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.”

- Pope Francis

Reading from Isaiah 59:4-9 This is the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn...Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am.

Silent Prayer - (few min) Consider where bonds need to be loosened; where I can be light in the darkness; how God is saying “Here I am” to us as a community.

Reading: Refugee Poem or
Story of a Refugee

Prayer of Petition

Leader: For refugees and migrant peoples, the world over who yearn for safety, for food for their families, for peace in their homelands

Response: We ask your blessing, O God

Leader : For all who will come before this court today: migrants, attorneys, judges that they may listen to one another with compassion and mercy.

Response: We ask your blessing, O God

Leader: For the many people and organizations that bring compassion and assistance to refugees, the displaced, the war shattered peoples in our world

Response: We ask your blessing, O God.

Leader: For a conversion of heart in our country, our government, our faith communities that will lead us to celebrate our oneness as sisters and brothers, our oneness with all of creation.

Response: We ask your blessing, O God.

Leader: Invite petitions participants wish to add

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Silent Prayer - (few min)

Reading - Psalm 147: 1-2, 5-10

Alleluia. Praise Adonai my soul. I will praise you all my life.

I will sing praise to my God while I live,

O God, you keep faith forever:

You secure justice for the oppressed,

You give food to the hungry, you set captives free,

You give sight to the blind

You raise up those who were bowed down;

You love those who do justice,

You protect strangers; you sustain orphans and the bereaved

But you thwart the way of the corrupt.

Our God will reign forever through all generations. Alleluia.

Pause to remember the faces of immigrants you have known.



Closing Prayer:

Merciful God and Father of all, may we share with our immigrant sisters and brothers the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our

true home, where every tear will be wiped away, and where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.” Pope Francis

Closing Song: We Shall Overcome
We'll walk hand in hand
We shall live in peace