

Prayer service for immigrants

February 11, 2026

Welcome

Opening song (from Singing Resistance):

#1 Put down your weapons and sing your part

We walk the same ground, we're torn apart.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DUOwntaDuNG/?hl=en>

#2 It's OK to change your mind

Show us your courage, leave this behind

It's OK to change your mind

And you can join us, join us anytime

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DUOy5FkDmFQ/?hl=en>

Opening prayer

On this date in 1790, the Society of Friends, the Quakers, petitioned Congress for the Abolition of Slavery. It is time for us to once again make this request – to abolish racism, oppression and disappearing of immigrants, to abolish the arrests and maltreatment of people of color, their supporters, protesters, people of faith.

God of justice and compassion, we gather before You — hearts heavy with grief and anger for the violence that continues to wound our neighborhoods and nation. We remember Alex Pretti and Renee Nicole Good, beloved children of God whose lives were taken by the hands of oppression. We hold their families, their friends, and the people of Minneapolis and St. Paul in our prayer, trusting that Your comfort meets them in their mourning.

Our cities cry out with the pain of injustice, the weariness of fear, and the ache of lives lost too soon. Too many of Your beloved children live under threat and harm, their dignity denied and their hope diminished. We lament this brokenness together and pray that our longing for Your peace take root among us.

Stir within us a holy unrest. Give us the faith and the courage to see and speak the truth; to confront the powers that harm; and to stand shoulder to shoulder with those most vulnerable. May our mourning move us to mercy and our lament awaken compassion that leads to action.

God of peace, restore what hatred has broken. Grant safety to those who live in fear. Strengthen all who care for the wounded and the weary, and renew in us the steadfast hope that peace is still possible, even now.

We long together for Your peace in our nation's streets, peace in our communities, peace in every heart. Make us witnesses to Your presence and instruments of Your love. Set things right among us, O Lord. Restore peace to the land and to our communities.

Response – Read by all:

God of love and mercy, we know you are with us always, even at times of tremendous pain and suffering. Help strengthen our commitment to nonviolence, to justice, to continuing to walk with our neighbors, sisters, and brothers.

A reading from the Book of Zechariah:

The word of the LORD came to Zechariah: Thus says the LORD of hosts: Judge with true justice, and show kindness and compassion toward each other. Do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the resident alien or the poor;* do not plot evil against one another in your hearts.

The word of the Lord.

Statement

As a people of faith, we speak out and take action to support all our immigrant sisters and brothers and those who walk with and support them. In Minnesota and throughout the country, ICE and CBP agents continue to act with impunity – abducting our neighbors, including children, from their homes, schools, jobs and streets, separating them from their families and communities and taking them to unsafe detention centers with little or no due process or transparency. These agencies operate without consequence for repeated violations of law and human rights, with disproportionate use of force, and a lack of respect for human dignity. They function unhindered with masks, anonymity, weapons and immunity. All funded through Congress by all taxpayers.

Funding the Department of Homeland Security and its agencies of ICE and CBP must not continue until justice and dignity in policy and practice are enacted. The violence must stop.

This means a stop in ICE and CBP operations in Minnesota and throughout the country until a thorough investigation into the use of force, the deaths of immigrants and allies, and the sharing of evidence with local law enforcement occurs. DHS must heed state government requests for ICE and CBP removal from their streets. It also means stopping enforcement based on racial profiling, stopping it at sensitive locations, stopping warrantless arrests, family detention, and the harmful unlawful treatment of people held at detention centers around the country. It means increasing Congressional oversight of those managing DHS policy and ICE and CBP agents' conduct.

We pray that Congress and the Department of Homeland Security would recognize the individual worth of every person, training or retraining ICE and CBP agents to treat each immigrant, bystander, demonstrator or member of the public with respect and care. The violence must end.

Response: Read by all

God of mercy and compassion, keep us ever mindful of those who suffer because of dispossession, war, violence, homelessness, and exile, who are forced to be pilgrims and strangers. Grant us, we pray, a far-reaching mercy and compassion, that we may open our hearts and homes more fully in welcome and care for the strangers and refugees in our midst.

Grant us the strength and courage to face the systems, policies, and structures of our day that divide the human family, and transform them with Your love. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Intercessions – Participants can rotate each taking a prayer to read:

Together, we mourn the injustices and wounds inflicted on those who are suffering. Please respond, "Hear our prayer."

For all immigrants who have been kidnapped and disappeared.

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For first generation citizens, children of immigrants, and naturalized citizens, enduring the terror of being falsely detained or deported because of their accent or the color of their skin

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For children fearing that their parents will be kidnapped from them each time they separate

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For immigrants fearful of going into their own house of worship

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For students who are terrorized and blocked from receiving the education they deserve

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For mothers and fathers who have sacrificed everything in the name of hope for their families

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For all our migrant sisters and brothers currently being held in ICE detention centers without due process, and without sufficient food, water, and bedding

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For spending billions of dollars on building immigration detention centers, hiring extreme numbers of ICE agents and other ICE spending rather than funding the feeding of the hungry, housing the homeless and caring for the sick

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For people of conscience around the country who have been brutalized violently for standing for their migrant sisters and brothers

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For immigration lawyers of conscience and those within the legal system working tirelessly for due process and justice for all

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For ICE agents and all border control and homeland security employees, that they may reject the narrative of fear and hatred and instead protect the lives and dignity of citizens and non-citizens alike

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For all people of faith and conscience, that each may hear the cry of those who suffer and respond with welcome, protection, promotion, and integration

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

For all those gathered here today, that we greet each other with love and kindness, and share the same with migrants and refugees, and with all those who are vulnerable

ALL: *Hear our prayer*

Jesus, may your light and love fill the broken places in our hearts, and give us the grace to move us into action. Grant us the patience, strength, and courage to be channels of your peacemaking.

ALL: *Amen*

Plea to political and immigration officials and agents:

Today we appeal to all political and immigration officials and agents who have devised, ordered and are carrying out ICE raids on immigrant communities across the United States. We remind you that we are created in God's image and all life is sacred. God's love knows no borders. We implore you to respect the dignity of each person you encounter, especially the most vulnerable. We invite you to welcome our neighbors, not to arrest, detain and deport them. The cries of all those who live in fear and are detained rise to heaven more loudly each day. We implore all political leaders overseeing immigration policy and

ICE agents: Stop the cruelty of the raids! Stop the repression! Release all those unjustly held captive, reunite families, and allow immigrants to get on a path to long-term status!

Prayer – Read by all:

God of all nations, we lift up to you our brothers and sisters who have left their homelands seeking safety.

We pray for immigrants everywhere, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

Be with them on their journey, Lord.

Protect them from harm, guide them to safe haven and open doors of opportunity filled with hope and dignity. Surround them with your love and the kindness of others.

We pray for our Church, that it may be a beacon of welcome and support for immigrants in our communities. Inspire us to show the same compassion and generosity that you have shown us.

Help us to embrace the richness of diversity and to work for justice for all.

May our parishes be places where immigrants find friendship, understanding and a spiritual home. May we walk with them, honoring their stories and embracing the beauty of their traditions. We ask all this through Christ our Lord, who himself was a refugee and stranger in a foreign land. Amen.

Closing prayer:

Loving God, in this Black History Month, we remember all saints of peace, solidarity and dignity upon whose shoulders we stand. May they inspire and challenge us to keep moving forward, steadfast in our commitment to compassion, justice and nonviolence.

Sister Thea Bowman said, “God’s glory is revealed because we love one another across the barriers and boundaries of race, culture and class.” God, fill us with your love, which leaps fences and penetrates walls, love that quiets fear, overcomes hatred and will not back down or run away from overwhelming circumstances. Grant us your grace, too, so our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us.

Harriet Tubman tells us, “Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Loving God, show us that strength, patience and passion within ourselves and each other when we’re feeling weak, frustrated and exhausted. Prepare us to be broken bread and poured out wine as an offering on the sacrifice and service of our immigrant sisters and brothers, accepting consequences without complaint. Strengthen our hearts and keep us free from self-pity and fear.

Be with us, O God, today and always. Fill us with HOPE as we continue to walk in faith and solidarity on this journey to justice and love.

AMEN