



City of Sanctuary

Sanctuary Sunday

Sanctuary Sunday is an opportunity for churches and congregations to focus their Sunday service on the issue of sanctuary, and to reflect on how we can all contribute to creating a culture of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees in our communities.

This list of resources has been put together by Leeds Churches Together in Mission in conjunction with City of Sanctuary. It contains resources and ideas from various organisations and individuals, and is intended to be a helpful resource in planning church services for Sanctuary Sunday (though these are only a few resources and ideas we have found, there are bound to be plenty more out there).

You may wish to combine prayers, hymns and reflections with information about actions that can be taken:

- Local volunteering opportunities
- Local donations collections
- Campaigns relating to destitution, detention, ESOL, resettlement etc

Or places where further information can be found eg. City of Sanctuary, Refugee Council or British Red Cross websites.

We may be able to send you some leaflets and information to hand out if you contact the office (visit the contact page on our website for details).

Hymns and Songs

- Christ be our light
- Heaven shall not wait
- God of freedom God of justice
- A new commandment
- Brother, sister, let me serve you
- I the Lord of sea and sky
- Once to every life and nation
- Help us to help each other, Lord
- When I needed a neighbour
- Siyahamba
- Will you come and follow me
- 'All are welcome' ('Let us build a house...')

Suggested Bible Readings

- Genesis 21: 8-21 The three visitors
- Genesis 28:10-17 Jacob's dream at Bethel
- Exodus 23: 1-9 Laws of justice and mercy
- Exodus 22: 17 - 21 Resident aliens in the Covenant Code
- Leviticus 19: 33- 34 Resident aliens as part of the Holiness Code
- Deuteronomy 24: 17 - 22 Resident aliens as part of the Justice Code
- Ruth 1: 16-22 Ruth and Naomi leave Moab and travel to Bethlehem
- Psalm 137: Lament of the exiles who were taken to Babylon
- Lamentations 5: 1-15, 19-22
- Micah 4: 1-7 The mountain of the Lord
- Matthew 2: 13-15 The Holy Family become refugees
- Matthew 25: 31-46 The parable of the sheep and the goats – consideration for the 'least' among us
- Luke 1: 46-55 Magnificat

- Luke 10: 25-37 The parable of the Good Samaritan
 - Luke 24:13- 35 The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus
- James 2:14-24 Faith through deeds

Poems / Readings

By the banks of River Asylum (by Anonymous)

As I sat pensive by the banks of river asylum,
Tears flowed and blocked my sight,
I wallowed in the thoughts of yesterday,
A fraction of yesterday that was happy,
Happy yesterday decorated by Sunshine,
Water oozed out like water from a broken cistern,
I blossomed in that career like a flower in spring,
Endless voices of children a huge part of that yesterday
As I tarried by the banks of river asylum,
The garment of beautiful yesterday fully changed
Into a flowing gown of depression and psychosis,
In my mind's eye is a distorted lens,
Life seemed worthless and meaningless,
END IT, the only song I hear,
Medication and therapies my daily bread,
In this limbo, a ray of light appears
...three years leave to remain,
With an irreparable mark for life.

Prayers and Reflections

A Prayer for Refugees

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today
are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

from www.invitationtoprayer.org

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven,

you want us your children to build a new earth of sisterhood and brotherhood, not a hell of violence and death.

Holy be your name,

that in your name Lord, let there be no abuse, no oppression and no manipulation of the conscience and liberty of your children.

Your Kingdom come,

not the kingdom of fear, force or money, of seeking peace through war.

Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven,

in this land of ours and in sister lands which echo with gunfire and cries of fear.

Give us this day our daily bread,

the bread of peace, Lord, so that we can sow our maize and beans, watch them grow and share them together as a family.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Do not let our relationships be based on self-interest. Let us change laments for songs of life, clenched fists for outstretched hands and the weeping of widows and orphans for smiles.

Lead us not into temptation,

the temptation to conform, to do nothing: the temptation not to collaborate with you in the search for justice and peace.

But deliver us from evil,

from behaving like Cain to our brothers and sisters, from believing ourselves rulers over life and death.

For yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory.

You are our hope of salvation, in you we place our trust

Written by a group of refugees from El Salvador (from the CAFOD website)

Love your neighbour

Jesus, friend and brother, you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.

You know the plight of the Stranger who is made unwelcome.

You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.

We pray that by welcoming the asylum seeker we may show Love for our neighbour and draw closer to you.

Amen.

Written by Tony Singleton/CAFOD.

Prayer of protection

Terror is at our heels.

Anxiety, uncertainty, vulnerability Lie ahead.

We have fled to freedom.

And yet... Our hearts are aching.

Response: Cover us with your wings O Lord

Far from home. Longing for the familiar.

A touch, a smile, a hug, a kind word. Yearning to return. And yet...

We must go forwards.

Response: Cover us with your wings O Lord

Memories and dreams

Grief and hope

Death and new life

What might have been What could be. And yet...

Throughout Remains Your constant love.

Response: Cover us with your wings O Lord

Written by Margaret McNulty/CAFOD.

Bidding Prayers

For refugees and other displaced persons who have been forced from homes and security, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people and the land from which refugees have fled, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the humane and constitutional treatment of refugees in our nation, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For perception to see Christ in the strangers we welcome, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Adapted from World Council of Churches Worship Resources, Focus on Refugee, 1981

Lord Jesus, who fled the wrath of Herod. Be with those who have to flee the injustice of others.

Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay your head. Be with those who have no land to call their own.

For all refugees who have fled oppression in their own countries and are seeking new lives in new lands. Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us, Lord, who are the privileged inn-keepers of our day, to find room for those who have been driven from their homelands because of political, racial, or religious reasons. Amen.

Adapted from World Council of Churches Worship Resources, Focus on Refugee, 1981

Share the Journey prayer

God our refuge, you share the journey with migrants and refugees, lightening their footsteps with hope.

For you, Lord, are close to the broken-hearted.

Pour out your Spirit upon world leaders.

May they see the tragedies of our human family, and be moved to respond with wisdom, compassion and courage.

Open our eyes and hearts to the God-given dignity of all your people.

Move us to welcome our neighbours, and so bear witness to your love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

More Resources

www.cityofsanctuary.org (particularly www.cityofsanctuary.org/by-theme/faiths)

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Refugee-action>