

# a million stories

## Responsive Prayer

### Welcoming the stranger

**Leader:** Leviticus 19:34a says, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt."<sup>1</sup> God of all nations, remind us that the foreigner among us is to be treated as one of our own – to be loved and welcomed as family.

**All:** *Lord, as we welcome others, help us to remember the times when we, too, needed care.*

**Leader:** As you welcomed us in Christ when we were far from home, help us to show love to those coming from afar.

**All:** *Make our lives open to welcome the ones you bring near.*

**Leader:** For refugees from war-torn Ukraine, bring peace to their land and help them to find welcome as they flee the fighting.

**All:** *Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, have mercy.*

---

### Seeing Christ in the displaced

**Leader:** In Matthew 25:35b, Jesus says, "...I was a stranger and you invited me in..."<sup>2</sup> You have taught us that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome you.

**All:** *Give us eyes to see your face in those we might overlook.*

**Leader:** Free us from fear – the fear of what is different or unknown.

**All:** *Perfect your love in us, so that fear loses its hold.*

**Leader:** For brothers and sisters in Burma, seeking safety for their families, grant them peace and protection.

**All:** *Lord Jesus, Light of the world, have mercy.*

---

<sup>1</sup> NIV

<sup>2</sup> NIV

## God's heart for the vulnerable

**Leader:** Deuteronomy 10:18 describes God's love for those who are vulnerable, saying, "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing."<sup>3</sup> Father of the fatherless, defender of the vulnerable, you love the foreigner and provide for their needs.

**All:** *Shape our hearts to mirror your own.*

**Leader:** Guard us from indifference, from a faith that is shallow.

**All:** *Open our eyes to see refugees as you see them - beloved, seen and held.*

**Leader:** For families in the Middle East, in Lebanon, Israel and Iran, we ask for an end to the violence and bombing.

**All:** *Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy.*

---

## Remembering our true citizenship

**Leader:** Lord, the apostle Paul reminds us that our true citizenship is in Heaven.<sup>4</sup>

**All:** *Keep us from clinging to earthly identities that close our hearts.*

**Leader:** Help us to care about what matters to you.

**All:** *Free us to love widely, generously and without fear.*

**Leader:** For people in the Pacific who have to flee their homes because of rising sea levels, may their families and communities be given support, have their needs met and find new, safe homes.

**All:** *Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy.*

---

---

<sup>3</sup> NIV

<sup>4</sup> Philippians 3:20a (NIV)

## Acting justly, loving mercy

**Leader:** Micah 6:8 says, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”<sup>5</sup>

**All:** *Lead us in your way of justice and compassion.*

**Leader:** Let justice move our hands and mercy soften our hearts.

**All:** *Keep us humble, remembering that we, too, have received abundant grace.*

**Leader:** For people who are fleeing conflict in Sudan and any other parts of the world, help them to find refuge and welcome in safe countries.

**All:** *Lord Jesus, Creator of this world, have mercy.*

---

## Closing prayer

**Leader:** God of grace, God of mercy, expand our hearts.

**All:** *Make us a people who welcome the stranger, help us to see Christ in the displaced, to defend the vulnerable, live as citizens of Heaven, and walk humbly with you. Amen.*

---

<sup>5</sup> NIV

