



St Edmund's Church

Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway



Norges Kristne Råd
KIRKENE SAMMEN

Hope away from Home

A Vigil of Prayer on World Refugee Day

Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 12 Noon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION – Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

OPENING STATEMENT AND CALL TO SILENCE – Lemma Desta, Norges Kristne Råd

SILENCE

MUSIC - Hjorleifur Valsson, Den islandske menigheten (Violin)

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Knowing that our God walks with us in our confusion, our doubts, our failings, our struggles, we now come humbly before God to ask for mercy.

For the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty, we pray: **God, have mercy on us and your people**

For the times we lack courage to address the causes of injustice, oppression and poverty, we pray to our God: **God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

For the times we give in to despair and resignation when confronted with the injustice of our world, we pray to our God: **God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

For the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity, we pray to our God: **God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

Merciful God, receive our petitions. Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness and fear. Open our hearts to hear the cries of your suffering people. Support us as we seek to respond in solidarity and with hospitality.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25.31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come,

you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

HYMN:

***Whatever you do to the least of my brothers (or sisters)
That you do unto me.***

**When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink.
Now enter into the home of my Father.**

**When I was weary, you helped me find rest;
When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.
Now enter into the home of my Father.**

**When I was homeless, you opened your door;
When I was naked, you gave me your coat.
Now enter into the home of my Father.**

**When in a prison, you came to my cell;
When on a sickbed, you cared for my needs.
Now enter into the home of my Father.**

REFLECTIONS: Words of recollection, encouragement, and challenge

- Kristina Quintano Team Humanity Norway/Salam LADC Norway
- Jon Ole Martinsen senior advisor /Norwegian asylum seekers association

POEM: by Bendik Østeby Johannessen

PRAYERS

Holy God, creator of all there is,
You make all people in your image, each person unique, each life sacred.
In Jesus you reveal yourself taking sanctuary on earth, fleeing with family as a child into exile and sanctuary, enduring false testimony and persecution.
We hold before you all who are deprived of their homes and run for sanctuary, many travelling by unsafe vessels on unsafe routes.
We hold before you the anguish and cries of those in danger, those who drown, in the seas, remembering especially those who even as we pray now are lost in the Mediterranean Sea.
Be the shelter of their souls.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all agencies of rescue and their efforts to save lives. We pray for an end to the storms of war, poverty, extreme weather and cruelty in policies.

Enlighten those who govern. We pray for compassion and peace, so that people may live in their homes and not be afraid. Strengthen us all to work together to build cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety especially for all who are seeking the sanctuary in human friendship.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the widows and orphans, the immigrants and refugees, You have promised justice for the oppressed food for the hungry, freedom for the prisoner, and relief to all who are burdened. In Christ, You offer life to all. Open our hearts and minds to see what You see, to love as You love, to give as You have given, so that Your promised justice would become reality in our world.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Joining all our prayers, we pray the Lord's prayer each in our own language.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN:

**Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Acknowledgements:

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Prayer of Penitence: World-Refugee-Day-worship-resource.pdf (pwrdf.org)

Prayers adapted from Inderjit Bhogal: Sanctuary prayer upon Mediterranean tragedy (ctbi.org.uk) and Offering Prayer: World-Refugee-Day-worship-resource.pdf (pwrdf.org)

Scripture Reading: New International Version

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