



Refugee Sunday Service Planning **Materials**

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Planning Guide for Refugee Sunday

Refugee Sunday is an opportunity for churches to devote a Sunday to honoring refugees—remembering them in prayer, celebrating those refugees who have been a part of a congregation's life, and educating ourselves about current refugee situations.

This year's theme for Refugee Sunday is 'Welcoming the Stranger.' Hospitality is a fundamental and defining characteristic of the people of God. This year, you will find extensive resources to help your congregants to delve more deeply into a conversation about what it means to be hospitable. The resources include small group discussion plans, quotes, sermon planning resources, scriptures, and suggested reading about hospitality.

Your church's Refugee Sunday celebration will be as unique as your congregation, and can take a number of directions. For example, you might host a refugee speaker, offer a special prayer or litany for refugees, or hold a donation drive for refugee families. The resources provided by Refugee Services are yours to use and adapt to create a service that reflects your church's worship practices. Please give credit where it is noted in these resources.

Refugee Sunday 2009 Materials Include:

- Refugee Fact Sheets
- Information about the Refugee Speakers Bureau
- Activities for Children and Youth
- Hospitality Resources
- Publicity Information (bulletin inserts, newsletter blurbs, etc.)
- Service and Educational Projects for Church Groups
- Prayers and Litanies
- Service Planning Materials, including sample service
- Hymns
- Scripture Passages
- World Refugee Day Resources from Church World Service

Sample Refugee Sunday Celebration

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations

L: We are a community of faith that has been created by the love of God.

P: We are the people who have been set free by the world of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and are therefore a people called to reach out to the sojourners in our midst and in other lands, people whose lives cry out for the warm embrace of fellowship.

L: We have come not to exalt our own goodness, but to praise the holiness of God.

P: We have come not to boast of what we have done, but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ by extending the hand of community to refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers.

All: With all our being, we will praise God and tell of God's goodness in our acts of kindness and love toward the "least" among us in our times.

Missions Moment:

Host a speaker from our Refugee Speaker's Bureau (refugees who are willing to share their own experiences and have had public speaking training to prepare them to share their stories), or hear from a staff member at Minnesota Council of Churches-Refugee Services.

Call to Confession

Keeper of heaven and earth, guardian of our coming and going forth, of our times of tender reflection, and our moments of turmoil, our life is fragile. We violate each other in personal relationships, as nations, as inept keepers of life's beauty. Sharpen our sensitivities. Stir in us preference for listening over speaking, for tenderness over aggression, for solidarity and community over alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of the resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation but embody those words in our lives. Healer, Redeemer, Sustainer, Source of Hope and Joy, we offer thanks and praise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

Hymns

The following hymns are found in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*. Feel free to substitute appropriate hymns or songs of worship from your church's book of worship.

67 We, Thy People, Praise Thee
111 How Can We Name a Love
203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
257 We Meet You, O Christ
273 Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands
255 Depth of Mercy
426 Behold a Broken World
427 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
428 For the Healing of the Nations

Prayers

For the Courage to Do Justice

O Lord,
open our eyes that we may see the needs of refugees;
open our ears that we may hear people's cries for justice;
open our hearts that we may assist sojourners near and far.

Show us
where love, hope and faith are needed.

Use us as ministers of your healing.

Let us not be afraid
to protect the weak because of the anger of the strong,
or to defend the poor because of the power of the rich.

Sustain us so that in these coming days
we may be able to do some work of peace for you.

We ask these things in your blessed name. You taught us to pray....

Litany

L: Lord Jesus, who fled the wrath of Herod.

P: Be with those who have to flee the injustice of others.

L: Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay your head.

P: Be with those who have no land to call their own.

L: For the refugees from Burma, Iraq and Afghanistan.

P: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For people uprooted in Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

P: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For refugees and displaced persons who have fled from or are still living in Bosnia and Kosovo.

P: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For all refugees who have fled oppression in their own countries and are seeking new lives in new lands.

P: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: 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)

Offering

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3:17)

Gracious God, we humbly thank you for our many blessings. We ask your blessing on the refugees and displaced people of the world. Thank you for the opportunity to give of our resources, and in so doing participate in the work of bringing relief to these beleaguered men and women. We ask Your blessing on these gifts, that they might accomplish much in the lives of refugees here.

Our hospitality both reflects and participates in God's hospitality

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scriptures:

Leviticus 19: 33- 34 (Resident aliens as part of the Holiness Code)

Deuteronomy 24: 17 - 22 (Resident aliens as part of the Justice Code)

New Testament:

Matthew 25:35-40 (Consideration for the "least" among us)

Luke: 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)

Luke 24:13- 35 (the Stranger on the Road to Emmaus)

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Go in peace and grace. And may God lift up new possibilities before us, the face of Christ be seen in our neighbors and the Spirit lead us into the celebration of a new community. Amen.

Source: "The Uprooted Ones: Remembering Refugees" (Uniting Church in Australia)

Prayers and Litanies for Worship

Opening and General Prayers

Call To Worship

Leader: Lord, we are your gathered people, come together to be one with refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people whose lives have been dislocated by war, famine and injustice. By our presence here we express our solidarity with them in their search for a new life, a new home, a new promise.

All: Lord clear our eyes that we may see the suffering of the refugee.
Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those deep in despair.
Release our feet that we may walk on paths where some comfort we may spread.
Unloose our tongues that we might speak your words of hope and love.
Give us open hearts that we may be truly hospitable to the stranger in our midst.

Source:

http://www.crwrc.org/site_uploads/uploads/crwrc/resources/refugee/crwrc_RefugeeKitLiturgy.pdf

Call To Worship

Based on Acts 10: 34-38

We come together to worship the God of Abraham and Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael, Moses and his Ethiopian wife, The God of all nations, races, and peoples. O God, hear the cries of your people from many lands.
For God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.
We know the message God sent to Israel and to the church. God sent Jesus, preaching peace. That message spread from Judea to all parts of the world.
We gather to proclaim and hear Jesus' message of peace. Like him we will seek to do good and heal all who are oppressed by evil, poverty, war, and injustice by the power of God, who is judge of the living and the dead.

Invocation

God of desert and oasis, of rich and poor, of saint and sinner, we lift our prayer to you, O Most Holy One. We come to this holy space not to block out the world nor its cries and groaning. Rather, we come to integrate our world into our worship, our politics into our prayers. We come because this world, broken and mended, struggling and strong, is the world you love in all its wild diversity. We are a people of incarnational faith. Since Jesus stepped into the muck and mire of the human predicament, we come to you not to escape the harsh realities of the front page and TV newscasts, but to be empowered by your Fiery Spirit to immerse ourselves, once again, into your wounded world, so in need of healing and wholeness, peace and liberation. Come, God of water and fire, cleanse us, ignite us, to be your people of peace. Amen.

Source: www.actforpeace.org.au.

Prayer of Confession

What can we say, Merciful God, in the shadow of our situation?

- As citizens of a privileged country let us not be complacent in the midst of such death and devastation.
- By global comparisons we are a people of power and privilege. We have too often left politics to the politicians, preaching to preachers, and the affairs of other nations to fate.
- As Christians, we have lived as if our primary allegiance is to the State, instead of the Saviour.

What can we say, Merciful God, in light of the words of your Child, Jesus Christ?

- Let the little children come unto me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matthew 19:14).
- But I say unto you, love your enemies...so that you may be the children of God in heaven (Matthew 5:44-45).
- Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these...you did it to me (Matthew 25:40).

What can we say, Merciful God, but:

Forgive us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God of mercy and grace, we seek genuine mercy that renews our spirits to right the wrong, to love the unloved, to free the oppressed. Deliver us from cheap grace, grace without repentance, grace without the cross, grace without transformation. Cleanse us with the water of your Spirit. Blow upon us with the wind of your Spirit. Ignite us with the fire of your Spirit. Assure us that, in spite of our weakness, failure, and sin, we are still your forgiven and forgiving community, through the grace and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Source: [http://www.ncca.org.au/data/page/51/RMS-Worship-Resources-2008 \(2\).pdf](http://www.ncca.org.au/data/page/51/RMS-Worship-Resources-2008%20(2).pdf)

Closing Prayer:

Leader: God beyond borders
we bless you for strange places and different dreams
for the demands and diversity of a wider world
for the distance that lets us look back and re-evaluate
for new ground where broken stems can take root, grow and blossom.
We bless you for the friendship of strangers
the richness of other cultures
and the painful gift of freedom.

All: Blessed are you, God beyond borders.

Leader: But if we have overlooked the exiles in our midst,
heightened their exclusion by our indifference
given our permission for a climate of fear
and tolerated a culture of violence

All: Have mercy on us,
God who takes side with justice.
Confront our prejudice
stretch our narrowness
sift out our laws and our lives
with the penetrating insight of your Spirit,
until generosity is our only measure.
Amen

Source: Holy Ground: Liturgies and Worship Resources for an Engaged Spirituality, by Helen Boothroyd, Neil Paynter, page 24.

Look with pity, O heavenly God, upon those in this land who live with injustice, terror, and death of family and friends. Have mercy upon us and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the justice of this land. Amen.

Source: "Year of the Uprooted," Interchurch Committee on Refugees, Canada

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Source: The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

God, You are the source of human dignity, and it is in your image that we are created.

Through your Spirit of love and compassion enable us
-- to reverence each person
-- to help protect anyone in danger or need
-- to value and appreciate those who differ from us
-- to share justly the resources of the world
-- to receive the gifts offered to us by people from other cultures.

Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance that avoids war and ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.

Remembering that we are one world and one family, we ask that we may always be inspired to speak out and actively work for the protection of refugees and others displaced and threatened by war, torture, and prejudice.

Source: the National Council of Churches of Australia 2007 Refugee and Migrant Liturgy

Oh God of all Creation,
From our place of privilege we view in little bits the suffering of people caught in war, displaced by politics, stripped of power over their own lives. Give us courage to look and listen and know our brothers and sisters whom we call refugees. Help us to see the connections between the choices made by the powerful and the destinies of the powerless.

Our lives are filled with many options. Give us compassionate hearts and bold spirits, that we may more and more frequently opt to use our voices, our time, our energy, our money, our passion toward building joyous, strong, and abiding friendships with some of those who seek refuge with us.

You, O God, have blessed us and challenged us. We trust that you will also empower and sustain us as we reach out to greet those who are reaching out to us. We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Source: "Refugee Awareness Week: Candlelight Vigil"

God, you call us to be in relationship, building community with one another, working with one another, supporting and healing one another. God have mercy.

God, you call us into a community working for the common good of all people, making choices that bring hope, justice, truth, and freedom to our world. God have mercy.

God, you call us into community with the whole of creation, always cherishing, nurturing, and renewing the earth. God have mercy.

Source: the National Council of Churches of Australia 2007 Refugee and Migrant Liturgy

God bless our eyes, that we may recognize injustice or neglect.

God bless our ears, that we may hear the cry of the persecuted.

God bless our mouths, that we may speak words of welcome to newcomers.

God bless our shoulders, that we may bear the weight of providing protection and rebuilding lives.

God bless our hands, that we may work together with all people to establish just and lasting peace.

God bless our hearts, that we may be transformed into witnesses of truth, justice, and love.

Source: the National Council of Churches of Australia 2007 Refugee and Migrant Liturgy

O Lord, I know not what to ask of Thee. Thou alone knowest what are my true needs. Thou lovest me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or a consolation. I can only wait on Thee. My heart is open to Thee. Visit and help me, for Thy great mercy's sake. Strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence Thy holy will and Thine inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to Thee. I put all my trust in

Thee. I have no other desire than to fulfill Thy will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Thou Thyself in me. Amen.

Source: "For the Acceptance of God's Will" by the Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow (d. 1867)

God, who can turn our worries into wings of joy and our sorrows into songs of thanks, let not our hearts be so troubled by the tragedies of this life's moment that we lose sight of the eternal life in Your Kingdom. Give comfort and solace to our brothers and sisters who suffer almost unbearable losses every second, minute and hour around the world. Strengthen our resolve to replace hatred with love, tension with trust, fear with understanding, and selfishness with caring and community. Heal, O God, all your people so that those who are hurt, may live in a world of peace, opportunity, and justice. Amen.

*Adapted from **Guide My Feet** by Marian Wright Edelman (from UMCOR service)*

Look with pity, O heavenly God,
upon those in this land who live with
injustice, terror, and death of family and friends.
Have mercy upon us and help us
to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found.
Strengthen those who seek equality for all.
Grant that every one of us may enjoy
a fair portion of the justice of this land. Amen.

(From materials for Year of the Uprooted, Interchurch Committee on Refugees, Canada)

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.

~Mother Teresa (Prayer #446 in the Methodist Book of Worship)

Litanies (L: Leader, P: People)

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: 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.

Leader: For the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty, we pray:

R: God, have mercy on us and your people

Leader: For the times we lack courage to address the causes of injustice, oppression and

poverty, we pray to our God:

R: God, have mercy on us and on your people.

Leader: For the times we give in to despair and resignation when confronted with the injustice of our world, we pray to our God:

R: God, have mercy on us and on your people.

Leader: For the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity, we pray to our God:

R: God, have mercy on us and on your people.

All: 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.

Source:

http://www.cwrc.org/site_uploads/uploads/cwrc/resources/refugee/cwrc_RefugeeKitLiturgy.pdf

Affirmation of Faith:

Leader: It is the will of God that no one should go away thirsty.

All: *It is the will of God that all who ask will be received.*

Leader: It is the will of God that none should be driven out of their homes and communities.

All: *It is the will of God that Christ's love be available to all the world.*

Leader: It is the will of God that we should be light to a waiting and broken world.

All: *It is the will of God that we love the world as Christ has loved us.*

Source:

http://www.cwrc.org/site_uploads/uploads/cwrc/resources/refugee/cwrc_RefugeeKitLiturgy.pdf

Prayers of Intercession:

Leader or reader:

Let us pray for refugees and displaced people throughout the world. Let us pray for those

who have fled (from...) and who are (in...) or other parts of the world.

We especially pray for those known personally to us whom we now name before you. (Name aloud the people or community group).

We pray for them in their need for the basic necessities of life –shelter and food. Grant that they may have the skills and equipment to build shelters and to grow food.

We pray for ourselves that we can also be like Zacchaeus and welcome people into our homes.

Blessing:

Leader: Go in peace, and may the grace and love of Christ attend you,

The love and strength of God surround you,

And the wisdom and gentleness of the Spirit fill you and equip you for every good

work,
Both now and forevermore.

All: Amen

Source:

http://www.cwrc.org/site/uploads/uploads/cwrc/resources/refugee/cwrc_RefugeeKittLiturgy.pdf

A Litany for Ministry with Uprooted People

Leader: Almighty God, thanks be to you for your love and goodness showered on us each day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness and abundant life. We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who keeps us in faith.

Congregation: We thank you for the gifts of life, family, friends, and home. We are grateful especially for the caring of others in our times of need. Lead us to show our thankfulness to you by caring for others in their times of need.

L: O God, teach us how to show your justice and kindness to uprooted people who are often unknown, forgotten, or cast aside in our world today. Give us courage to step out in faith with you, to speak out and befriend the men and women, boys and girls who need freedom and healing to make life whole.

C: Stir us by your love. Move us to be messengers of your good tidings to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to comfort all who mourn, to give them a garland instead of ashes so that you may be glorified.

L: Almighty God, we pray for peace in our world. We pray for the leaders and people of other nations as well as our own, that all may see the glory of your ways and seek to work for peace with others.

C: Show us our part in creating this peace at home and abroad. Teach us how to proclaim your caring and wisdom in deeds and words that transcend cultures and backgrounds. Help us to recognize that people of different cultures and backgrounds can also be your messengers of love to us. Show us how to work with them in ways that are pleasing to you.

L: Our God, our Savior, we thank you for renewing and restoring our lives every day. Turn us around when we have lost our way. Open our hearts to open doors for uprooted people.

C: We thank you for the resurrection surprises you continue to bestow. Inspire and lead us that we may lift up your love for humanity in ministry with uprooted people. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

The U.S. Lutheran expression of service to refugees and migrants in America

Visit us online at www.lirs.org.

L: Gracious God, You have brought us in safety to a new day.

P: Keep us and defend us, O God.

L: In You we live and move and have our being.
P: Guide and govern us, this day and always.
L: Amidst the care and occupations of our lives;
P: May we remember that we are walking in your sight.
L: On behalf of all who sojourn as refugees, we pray:
P: Stay with us. Remain with us always.
L: On behalf of all who sojourn as people of faith, we pray:
P: Stay with us. Remain with us always.
L: On behalf of all who extend hospitality, we pray:
P: Stay with us. Remain with us always.
L: On behalf of all whose lives are closely linked to ours, we pray:
P: Stay with us. Remain with us always.
L: Wherever our lives and work take us:
P: Stay with us. Remain with us always.

Source: "A Morning Liturgy for Sojourners," "Hospitality to the Uprooted" Interfaith Worship, 1998

L: Let us pray to the Lord our Creator and Redeemer saying, "Lord, have mercy." For the world which God has created, and for peace, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among all people, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For an end to violence and oppression, and the things that force human beings to live in fear, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For those who are persecuted or imprisoned, and those who suffer famine, poverty, or disaster, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For the refugees of the world that they may be protected and receive help and safety, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For those who wait in camps and cities for a world of love and freedom, that they may have patience and courage, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For those in positions of public trust and leadership, that they may be responsive to the world's refugees and work for peace, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For the cities, towns, and communities that welcome refugees and introduce them to a new home, let us pray to the Lord:
P: Lord have mercy.
L: For the Church of God that it may be strong in its mission and compassion for refugees, let us pray to the Lord:

P: Lord have mercy.

L: For the unity of the Church, that our divisions may cease, and that we may work, believe, and worship together, let us pray to the Lord:

P: Lord have mercy.

L: For those who show forth the love of God by assisting in the ministry of resettlement and for their perseverance, let us pray to the Lord,

P: Lord have mercy.

L: For ourselves, for our deliverance from danger and for an increase of hope, faith, and love, let us pray to the Lord:

P: Lord have mercy.

L: For all who have died while pursuing their journey to freedom, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord:

P: Lord have mercy.

Source: adapted from "A Litany for Refugees"

L: Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for the world to forget: the old and the sick, the homeless and the destitute refugee, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body and spirit and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this: for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Look with pity, O merciful God, upon the people in this and all other lands who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Help us to comfort the sufferings of our sisters and brothers.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and that we may reverently use our freedom to free those who are in bondage.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives through ministry to refugees, through the joy of freeing their bondage. Increase our reverence for the mystery of life and the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer; Let the cry of those in misery and need come to us, that they may find our mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ in the faces of those who suffer and in our reaching out to our arms in love, we may give thanks and praise to you.

P: Hear our prayer.

L: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and apathy which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; united us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth and let the oppressed go free.

P: Hear our prayer.

Amen.

Source: adapted from a litany at the Refugee Advisory Meeting, 1988

L: Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of men and women.

P: Move my hands that they may feed the hungry.

L: Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing.

P: Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers.

L: Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked:

P: Give me the care that strengthens the sick:

L: Make me share in the quest to set the prisoners free:

P: In sharing our anxiety and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence.

Amen.

Source: Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe

L: Lord Jesus, who fled the wrath of Herod,

R: Be with those who have to flee the injustice of others.

L: Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay your head,

R: Be with those who have no land to call their home.

L: For the refugees from Burma, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia, the Former Soviet Union, Haiti, Vietnam, Eritrea, and so many other nations,

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For refugees who have fled oppression in their own countries and who are seeking new lives in new lands,

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Together: 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.

Source: 2004 Refugee Sunday materials

Communion Prayer

L: God of Exiles, Shelter of the Homeless:

P: You welcome all into the arms of your love.

L: To all who wander, with no place to call home,

P: You offer shelter and rest.

L: For all who are lost;

P: You search diligently and bring them home to your fold.

L: To all who thirst;

P: You offer springs of living water.

L: To all who hunger, in body or spirit;

P: You offer bread, the fruit of the earth and the gift of human hands.

L: Your table is long and wide;

P: With room for all your children.

L: Many have shared with us the gift of hospitality;

P: And for them we give you thanks and praise.

L: And, most of all, O God our Creator;

P: We give you thanks that in You we find our home.

Bread, in many shapes and sizes, is now passed among the people. As you tear off a piece of bread to offer to your neighbor, give thanks to God by naming softly aloud or in the silence of your heart, the person or group who has offered you the gift of hospitality. While the bread continues around the room, remember also in your prayers all gathered here, giving thanks for their work and asking God's continued blessing upon it.

Source: "Hospitality to the Uprooted," Interfaith Worship, November 1998.

Closing Prayers and Benedictions

We pray for all those who are uprooted, who are hunted, who are fleeing for their lives, and who so often find only closed borders, closed doors, and closed faces. We pray for the women and men, the children and the elderly who seek to find safety and solace and who yearn to begin new lives. We pray for those who pass by, who would rather not hear the pleading or see the fear or recognize the human being in need of help. Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord, hear our prayer; awaken in us all the potentials which may become your means of answering the prayers of others. In us, through us, and, if need be, despite us, may your will be done. Amen.

Source: "The Worship Book of the Global Ecumenical Consultation on Forced Displacement of People," Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1995.

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;
Inspired 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.

Source: "Hospitality to the Uprooted," Interfaith Worship, November 1998.

Go in peace and grace. And may God lift up new possibilities before us, the face of Christ be seen in our neighbors and the Spirit lead us into the celebration of a new community. Amen.

Source: "The Uprooted Ones: Remembering Refugees" (Uniting Church in Australia)

Suggested Hymns for Worship

Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton

Music: 19th century U.S. melody

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

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

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

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Ancient Irish, translated by Mary E. Byrne

Music: Traditional Irish melody

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty
praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Text: Henry Alford

Music: George J. Elvey

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Text: Johannes G. Olearius

Music: Werde Munter and Johann Schop

Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover,
And her warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance,
Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet Him,
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He will no more see nor heed.
She has suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away,
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever springing gladness.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain:
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er the earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Text: Philip Doddridge

Music: Frederick G. Baker

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

On Him the Spirit, largely poured,
Exerts His sacred fire;
Wisdom and might, and zeal and love,
His holy breast inspire.

He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eyes oppressed with night
To pour celestial day.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

His silver trumpets publish loud
The jub'lee of the Lord
Our debts are all remitted now
Our heritage restored.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved Name.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Text: Reginald Heber

Music: John B. Dykes

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Text: Lesbia Scott

Music: John H. Hopkins

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died
For the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And one was a shepherdess on the green;
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
And his love made them strong;
And they followed the right for Jesus' sake
The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
And there's not any reason, no, not the least,
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
In church, by the sea, in the house next door;
They are saints of God, whether rich or poor,
And I mean to be one too.

In Christ There is No East or West

Text: William A. Dunkerley

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,
Whatever your race may be!
Who serves my Father as His child
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
In Him meet North and South;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Text: Henry Van Dyke

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,

Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

Lamp of Our Feet

Text: Bernard Barton

Music: John B. Dykes

Lamp of our feet whereby we trace
Our path when wont to stray;
Stream from the fount of heav'nly grace,
Brook by the traveler's way.

Bread of our souls whereon we feed,
True manna from on high;
Our guide and chart wherein we read
Of realms beyond the sky.

Pillar of fire, through watches dark,
Or radiant cloud by day;
When waves would break our tossing bark,
Our anchor and our stay.

Word of the ever living God,
Will of His glorious Son;
Without Thee, how could earth be trod
Or Heav'n itself be won?

Yet to unfold thy hidden worth,
Thy mysteries to reveal,
That Spirit which first gave thee forth,
Thy volume must unseal.

Lord, grant us all aright to learn
The wisdom it imparts
And to its heavenly teaching turn
With simple, childlike hearts.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Text: Isaac Watts

Music: William B. Bradbury

My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.

O God of Every Nation

Text: William W. Reid, Jr.

Music: "Llangloffan," Welsh melody

O God of ev'ry nation,
Of ev'ry race and land.
Redeem the whole creation
With your almighty hand;
Where hate and fear divide us
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us
And heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower,
Destruction through the night
From pride of race and station
And blindness to Your way.
Deliver ev'ry nation,
Eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen those who labor
That all may find release
From fear of rattling saber,
From dread of war's increase;
When hope and courage falter,
Your still small voice be heard;
With faith that none can alter,
Your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
When peace on earth shall reign
And Christ shall rule victorious
O'er all the world's domain.

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Text: S. Trevor Francis

Music: Thomas J. Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Text: Frank M. North

Music: William Gardiner

Where cross the crowded ways of life,
Where sound the cries of race and clan
Above the noise of selfish strife,
We hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
We catch the vision of Your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness,
From woman's grief, man's burdened toil,

From famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
Your heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water given for You,
Still holds the freshness of Your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
The sweet compassion of Your face.

O Master, from the mountainside
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide;
O tread the city's streets again.

Till sons of men shall learn Your love
And follow where Your feet have trod,
Till, glorious from Your Heaven above,
Shall come the city of our God!

Other suggested hymns not reprinted due to copyright:

- "As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought" by Frank von Christierson, 1989
- "For the Healing of the Nations" by Fred Kaan, 1968
- "Help Us Accept Each Other" by Fred Kaan, 1975
- "Here I Am, Lord" by Daniel Schutte, 1981
- "Jesu, Jesu" by Thomas S. Colvin, 1969
- "This is My Song" by Lloyd Stone and Jean Sibelius
- "We Are Marching (Siyahamba)"

Suggested Scripture Passages

Listed in Biblical Order

Note: If your church follows the common lectionary, there is a wonderful tie to hospitality in the readings for November 8, 2009; particularly in 1 Kings 17: 8-16 and Psalm 146.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NRSV)

33 When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 (NRSV)

¹⁷For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing.

¹⁹You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

II Samuel 22:2-3 (NRSV)

²The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold and my refuge,
my savior; you save me from violence.

Psalms 41:1-3 (NRSV)

¹Happy are those who consider the poor;
the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.

²The Lord protects them and keeps them alive;
they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

³The Lord sustains them on their sickbed;
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

Psalms 46:1 (NRSV)

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 57:1 (NRSV)

¹Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.

Psalms 61:1-3 (NRSV)

¹Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

²From the end of the earth I call to you,
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I;
³for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

Psalms 107:4-9 (NRSV)

⁴Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
⁵hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
⁶Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
⁷he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.
⁸Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
⁹For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NRSV)

⁸Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of all the destitute.
⁹Speak out, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 58:6-9 (NRSV)

⁶Is not this 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?
⁷Is 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?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NRSV)

61The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Jeremiah 7:5-7 (NRSV)

5 For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, ⁶if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, ⁷then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever.

Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Zechariah 7:9-10 (NRSV)

⁹Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; ¹⁰do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Matthew 20:16 (NRSV)

¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Matthew 25:31-40 (NRSV)

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and

visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Luke 6:36 (NRSV)

³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 9:46-48 (NRSV)

⁴⁶An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, ⁴⁸and said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.'

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ²⁶He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' ²⁷He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' ²⁸And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' ³⁰Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Luke 14:7-13 (NRSV)

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;

⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

John 21:15-17 (NRSV)

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' ¹⁷He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

2 Corinthians 8:12-14 (NRSV)

¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NRSV)

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NRSV)

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Hebrews 13:1-2 (NRSV)

¹³Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

1 John 3:16-18 (NRSV)

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

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Refugee Sunday Evaluation

Name of congregation

Address

Name/phone/email of contact person

What resources did you use? Which ones did you like best? Least?

What was the general response to this event?

Would you like Refugee Services to contact you about creating a welcome kit, sponsoring a family, or some other way of staying involved in the ministry of refugee resettlement?

Any additional comments

Thank you so much for participating in Refugee Sunday and completing this evaluation! Please return this form to: Kristin Zoellner, Minnesota Council

Our hospitality both reflects and participates in God's hospitality

of Churches – Refugee Services, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 100,
Minneapolis, MN, 55404.

If you have questions, please contact Kristin Zoellner, Resource
Coordinator, at (612) 230-3219 or kristin.zoellner@mchurches.org.