

Prayer

Dear God, source of life,
we gather together in the name of Jesus who had nowhere to lay his head,
no safe place, no secure home, no passport or visa, no certified citizenship.
We gather around him in our safety, security, and we are afraid of the 'illegal immigrants'.
We are closing our borders, thinking that they are a threat to our life, that they will take our jobs.
We are also glad for cheap seasonal workers who take care of our tomatoes and fruit.
But we also know very well that you are the God who welcomes strangers,
that you do not withhold good from those in need.
We feel this deep tension between your truth and the way we live.
We do not ask for an easy way out,
but for courage and honesty and faithfulness to face this.
That we may meet them not with our prejudices,
but with open eyes and open arms fed by your word of mercy and love,
the only nourishment that makes us human.
Forgive our trespasses, so that we may change our habits and inclinations
and conform to your vision of a new world where everybody can live in dignity.
You are the God of all forgiveness.
We pray in the name of your holy Son Jesus.
Amen.

*(From the Liturgy of the European Methodist Council
For the 2019 World Refugee Day 2019)*