

REFUGEE SUNDAY 2018
A Litany on Becoming Neighbours

Reader 1: As members of Christ's body in a broken world, we are called to bear witness to the redeeming power of love. Let us seek to understand the fullness of this call, as image-bearers of the Creator.

Reader 2: *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* (Psalm 139: 13-14)

All: Lord, as we venture forth into our neighbourhoods grant us humility and compassion. Grant us eyes to see your Image, fearfully and wonderfully made, in the refugees and newcomers who we serve. Grant us ears to hear their stories. Grant us spirits that will be transformed through relationship with those we meet.

Reader 1: We are witness to the building of many beautiful relationships as churches in Canada welcome refugees into their communities. We are grateful for the Spirit's presence in the sharing of life and community.

Reader 2: *And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he 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." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"* (Luke 10: 25-29)

All: Lord, as we leave the walls of this church and go out into our communities, let us constantly be seeking to answer the question, "who is my neighbour?"

Reader 2: *Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.* (Romans 13:8-10)

Reader 1: Lord, we give thanks for the many ways in which churches across Canada have demonstrated your love in welcoming refugees. As strangers become neighbours and friends, your Kingdom is realized and communities are blessed.

All: To you, Lord, we commit our efforts to becoming better neighbours to one another. Grant us humility and compassion as we seek your face in those we encounter every day--in our churches, homes, communities, and beyond.