



Please Note: This order of service is designed to bring focus to the theme of Welcoming Refugees for your worship service. We encourage you to use any or all of these resources, and to use this order of service to work best with the worship style of your church community.

Order of Service

Celebrating 40 Years of God's Faithfulness: Welcoming Refugees

Call To Worship:

One Voice: Come all who seek mercy, justice and love.

Many Voices: We come to worship our Lord, our King, the one who was born in a stable, the one who reconciles all creation to Himself.

One Voice: Come all who seek community and belonging.

Many Voices: We come to worship our Lord, our King, the one who fled the murderous Herod, the one who offered friendship to all.

One Voice: The veil has been torn, the gates have been opened, there is nothing that can separate us from God's Love. Let us worship the Lord, our God.

Many Voices: Let us worship the Lord, our God!

Hymn of Praise: "O Praise the Lord, for It Is Good" - 549 LUYH

We offer peace to our neighbour:

Jesus said to his disciples, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." The Apostle Paul begins every one of his letters by saying, "Grace to you, and peace..." Throughout the entire history the Christian Church, followers of Jesus have offered the sign of peace to one another as a way of embodying the idea of reconciliation. As we offer peace to one another, we share the grace and love of God, and we acknowledge the other's belonging and we align our hearts with God's Kingdom principles of love, mercy and grace.

One Voice: The peace of Christ be with you all!

Many Voices: And also with you!

One Voice: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession:

God of love and mercy, we come to you in our brokenness and weakness, acknowledging that we have fallen short of your hope for us. We have tried to stay on the path in our own strength, and now we find ourselves lost.

We have been silent at times when we should have spoken on behalf of those who have no voice.

We have spoken words when we should have been silent, words that have been spoken for generations, words that invoke baseless rage and privilege, words that build walls rather than offer kindness.

We have failed to see your image in the person across from us. We have failed to see that all humanity, every woman, child and man has been fearfully and wonderfully made by you, our Creator.

Hear us o God, as we confess, and through your mercy may we know that we are forgiven.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the Good News for all humanity! God is merciful and slow to anger. As far as the east is from the west, the mercy of God removes our sins through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You are loved and pursued by a God who invites you again and again and again to be part of His story, and you are invited again and again and again to share. Thanks be to God!

We proclaim our faith:

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 4

Q. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40:

"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind."
This is the greatest and first commandment.

"And a second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"On these two commandments hang
all the law and the prophets."

Scripture Reading: Deut. 10:18-19 - Hebrew Scripture
Luke 10:29-37 - Gospel
Gal. 3:26-29 - Epistle

One Voice: This is the word of God.

Many Voices: May we hear, and respond.

Sermon or Message

Song of Response: "Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments" - 290 LUYH

Offertory Prayer:

All things have their origin with you, our Father. You have no limits to your generosity. No border can contain your love. No need is too great for you. We give back to you what is already yours, asking that you would bless both the gift and the giver. May our resources become tools of welcome and instruments of hospitality. May this offering add a flame to the beacon of hope for all people, in all nations, for your Glory of God. Amen.

A Litany for Refugees: See Litany, posted separately.

Closing Song: “Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table” - 300 LUYH

Blessing and Sending Forth:

Go in peace, acting in love, responding in mercy, speaking with conviction as a voice for the voiceless. Be blessed with the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God, created in the image of the one who breathes and sustains all life. May you share from the abundance of your Father’s heart, those who would seek nothing more than safety, belonging and peace. May you see the image of God in the face of the refugee, may the stranger be called sister, brother and friend.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN.