

Monday, April 11, 2011

On Monday, April 11th, as we remember our day of fast and prayer, we are invited to “reflect on the signs of the times with the eyes of God and with women’s hearts.”

We remember, “THE DISTRESS OF MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS, OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN SEEKING A MORE HUMAN LIFE.”
(Chapter Document 2007)

Remember the Immigrant Prayer Service

Leader: We serve a God who directs us to care especially for those most vulnerable in society. Our Scriptures tell us of God’s special concern for the “alien” or the “stranger,” or as more contemporary translations say – the immigrant.

All: For the Lord our God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. God defends the cause of the orphan and the widow, and loves the immigrant, giving the immigrant food and clothing. And we are to love those who are immigrants, for God’s people were immigrants in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

Leader: We ask God to open our eyes to the struggles of immigrant workers, for we know what Scripture calls us to:

All: We must not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether the worker is a resident or immigrant living in our town. We must pay the worker the wages promptly because the worker is poor and counting on it. (Deuteronomy 24:14)

Leader: God’s desire is that those who build houses may live in them, and that those who plant may eat. (Isaiah 65:22) And yet we know this is not possible for many in our midst.

All: We know of farm workers who cannot feed their families; construction workers who have no homes; nursing home workers who have no health care; restaurant workers who cannot afford a meal in the restaurant.

Leader: We know that too many immigrant workers among us are not receiving the fruits of their labor, nor the justice required by the courts.

All: God charges our judges to hear disputes and judge fairly, whether the case involves citizens or immigrants. (Deuteronomy 1:16)