

*Let us pray for all refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, and for churches that seek to be places of welcome. May we find liberation and hope today in the words of the Magnificat, the words spoken by Mary to her cousin Elizabeth when she hears that she is expecting Jesus.*

Lord, we praise you that you are the Almighty and that we can tell the world that you are God. We know that you look with compassion on all your children, especially those who are displaced and marginalized.

We believe that you call each one of us to serve you, and that the threads of your calling run through all our lives, women and men, young and old, gay, straight, and trans, people of every language, culture, and ethnicity.

As we learn that you see us and that your church enfolds us, may our strength grow, that we might proclaim your kingdom of justice and peace through all generations.

In your name, we recognize injustice in society, we call out those who sow the seeds of division, we cry out to the rich and proud to break down barriers of power, wealth, and discrimination that exclude those whose journeys to safety and freedom are long and hard.

Give courage to all who are oppressed. In your strength, make us a Church that exalts the lowly.

When we have little, draw us deeper into the communities that can feed and nurture us; help us to grow to our full stature as your children.

When we have much, reveal to us your gifts of welcome and generosity.

Your faithfulness is constant, across time zones, continents, and political regimes, through all time and space. You promise mercy for all your people, and you build us up as a church that stands as a faithful sign of your love in the world.

As you promised to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, give the promise of your love now to us, to our children, and to our children's children. Amen.