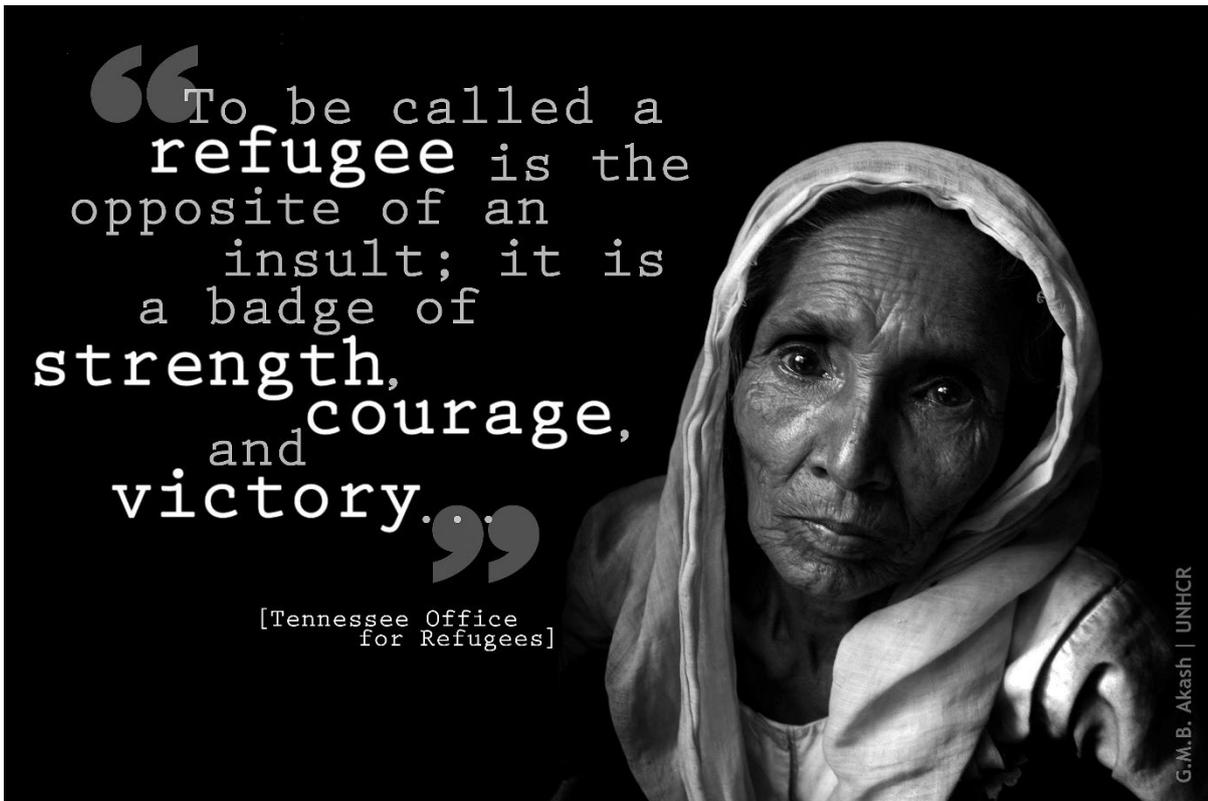


# Prayer Vigil



## Update

### Opening prayer

Loving God,  
open our hearts,  
so that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.  
Unclench our hands  
so that we may reach out to one another,  
and touch and be healed.  
Open our lips  
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.  
Unclog our ears  
to hear the agony in our inhumanity.  
Open our eyes,  
so that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.  
Breathe your spirit into us,  
and touch our lives with the life of Christ.

**Amen.**

(Anon, Aotearoa (New Zealand))

## Poem

No one leaves home unless  
home is the mouth of a shark.  
you only run for the border  
when you see the whole city  
running as well.  
your neighbours running faster  
than you, the boy you went to school with  
who kissed you dizzy behind  
the old tin factory is  
holding a gun bigger than his body,  
you only leave home  
when home won't let you stay.  
no one would leave home unless home  
chased you, fire under feet,  
hot blood in your belly.  
it's not something you ever thought about  
doing, and so when you did -  
you carried the anthem under your breath,  
waiting until the airport toilet  
to tear up the passport and swallow,  
each mouthful of paper making it clear that  
you would not be going back.  
you have to understand,  
no one puts their children in a boat  
unless the water is safer than the land.  
who would choose to spend days  
and nights in the stomach of a truck  
unless the miles travelled  
meant something more than journey

Warsan Shire (British-Somali poet)

## Prayer: To Christ

From your cross, O Jesus,  
light, healing and hope  
pour out into our world.  
I hold before you those who are living  
with heartbreak, anxiety,  
injustice, illness or despair.  
I remain before you, in silence,  
for all who need your love,  
and especially all  
who have no one to pray for them.

(Angela Ashwin)

## **15 minutes silence**

### **Intercessions**

#### **Closing Prayer: A prayer for all**

Move us into action, loving God,  
so that we do not avoid the pain of the world by escapism,  
but engage in the work of justice and peace.

Move us into action, compassionate God,  
so that we do not care only for ourselves or our own,  
but care for those in need, friend and stranger alike.

Move us into action, healing God,  
so that we do not aim simply for our own health,  
but share our resources with all who are dis-eased.

Move us into action, friendly God,  
so that we do not exclude those different from us,  
but welcome with generous hospitality those in need.

Move us into action, wonderful God,  
so that we are not lie lukewarm in apathy,  
but give ourselves in courage and daring for your case.

In the power and grace of the Spirit of Christ,  
we offer ourselves and our prayer,  
for you to make wonder.

Amen.

Terry Oakley