

Vigil Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

Arriving music: In God Alone

Opening music: Open our eyes to see

Gathering Prayer

We gather at the gates of this Immigration Removal Centre in solidarity with the women who are detained here.

Lord you call each of us here by name today. You invite us to follow you – not to walk alone, but to walk with you, with each other and with the women beyond this barrier.

Let us walk carefully as we come here for God is here before us.

Let us walk humbly here for many are gathered.

Let us walk softly as we come here, for the Spirit may speak in the silence of this place.

With grateful and hopeful hearts we gather here in Medomsley.

God was here before we came, God is with us now. We ask God's blessing on our Vigil.

Amen



Readings

Leviticus 19:33-34

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

From the Baha'i Writings:

Be thou a summoner to love, and be thou kind to all the human race.

Love thou the children of men and share in their sorrows.

Be thou of those who foster peace.

Offer thy friendship, be worthy of trust.

Be thou a balm to every sore, be thou a medicine for every ill.

Bind thou the souls together.

From Ety Hillesum, a Jewish diary writer, March 1942:

We human beings cause monstrous conditions, but precisely because we cause them we soon learn to adapt ourselves to them. Only if we become such that we can no longer adapt ourselves, only if, deep inside, we rebel against every kind of evil, will we be able to put a stop to it. Airplanes, streaking down in flames, still have a weird fascination for us – even aesthetically – though we know, deep down, that human beings are being burned alive. As long as that happens, while everything within us does not yet scream out in protest, so long will we find ways of adapting ourselves, and the horrors will continue.

Silence for 15 minutes

Psalm 121: A song of ascents. (Sung in Hebrew, this is the translation)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come?
My help is from the LORD, maker of heaven and earth.
He does not let your foot stumble. Your guard does not slumber.
Look, he does not slumber, nor does He sleep, Israel's guard.
The LORD is your guard, the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
By day the sun does not strike you, nor the moon by night.
The LORD guards you from all harm, He guards your life.
The LORD guards your going and your coming, now and forevermore.

Intercessions

Peace Litany

When peace is fragile, **stay with us, Lord.**
When tempers are raised, **stay with us, Lord.**
When atrocities occur, **stay with us, Lord.**
When forgiveness is rejected, **stay with us, Lord.**
When talks break down, **stay with us, Lord.**
When agreements are broken, **stay with us, Lord.**
When darkness weighs upon us, **stay with us, Lord.**
When we cannot see you, **stay with us, Lord.**
When burdens feel too heavy, **stay with us, Lord.**
When hope seems faint, **stay with us, Lord.**
When we are weak, **stay with us, Lord.**
When faith seems difficult, **stay with us, Lord.**

For all who have lost hope, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who suffer, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are sick and in pain, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are struggling, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who have been badly hurt in life, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are grieving, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are depressed, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who feel rejected, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who feel unloved, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are oppressed, **walk with them, Lord.**
For all who are anxious, **walk with them, Lord.**

A Prayer for Peace

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?
How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
Assuage real fears, Wipe tears from real eyes?
God of endless compassion, transform our prayers
From words into bridges, that span the distances
Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.
Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
May we remember all who are losing their homes.
Every time we step into our cars,
May we remember all who are having to flee.
Every time we embrace our children,
May we remember all who are trying to shield from war.
May our besieged sisters and brothers
Be drawn into the arms of the suffering God ,
And may our cry be heard as one voice,
Ringing out from every corner of the earth:
God of endless mercy, grant us peace.
Amen.