

# Vigil

## Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre



## **Opening Music:**

### **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

### **Optional Readings (leader can choose readings)**

## **Refugee**

So, I have a new name now – refugee

Strange that name should take away from me..

My past, my personality and hope

Strange refuge this

So many seem to share this name – refugee.

Yet we share so many differences.

I find no comfort in my new name.

I long to share my past, restore my pride,

to show, I too, in time,

will offer more than I have borrowed.

For now, the comfort that I seek

resides in the old yet new name

I would choose – friend

Ruvimbo Bungwe (14 at time of writing)

## **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.

### **The letter of Paul to the Ephesians 2:19**

So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors: you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are a part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations.

### **Canticle: Isaiah 35: Let the wilderness and dry land exult,**

Let the waste lands rejoice and bloom,

Let it bring forth flowers like the crocus

Let it rejoice and sing for joy.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

The splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,

Steady all trembling knees,

And say to all faint hearts;

" Courage! Do not be afraid!

Look your God is coming:

He is coming to save you"

## **Surah 4:36**

Do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the needy, and the neighbour from among your own people, and the neighbour who is a stranger, and the friend by your side, the wayfarer, and your servants.

### **From the writings of Pablo Neruda**

To feel the intimacy of brothers is a marvellous thing in life. To feel the love of people whom we love is a fire that feeds our life. But to feel the affection that comes from those whom we do not know, from those unknown to us, who are watching over our sleep and solitude, over our dangers and our weaknesses - that is something still greater and more beautiful because it widens out the boundaries of our being, and unites all living things.

### **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**

# Psalm

## Intercessions

### Closing Prayer

**LEADER:** We have spent some time in prayer, silence and in solidarity with our sisters who are detained here in Derwentside: and so together we pray: Dear God,

**ALL:** Help us always to choose the path of love, whether it be in compassion or challenge.

Support us in the small ways we can to ease pain and injustice.

Unite us in our efforts to bring about change in these troubled times.

Encourage us to recognise the spirit of God in all we try to contribute to the building of the Kingdom.

In our waiting, God, grant us patience

In our discerning, God, help us to listen

In our choosing, God, give us wisdom

In the way forward, God, be our companion

In the way of peace, God, protect all who are seeking sanctuary.

**AMEN**



For online vigil on YouTube, please click link <https://youtu.be/-jmKpVXbm1Q>