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TABLE

Collects for Advent 2019

November 9, 2019 we gathered for an evening of worship, meditation, and prayer for refugees and asylum seekers. We wrote these collects as part of the experience.

1. A Collect For New Hope

○ Father, the giver of life, fill us with your breath of new hope in Christ so that we in body, mind, and spirit may see you everywhere as you are. We ask this by your Spirit who is in, with, and among us. **Amen.**

2. A Collect To Find Home

Shepherd God, who does not forget any of your children: Grant us to find our home in you, that we may cease our endless wandering and find true rest in you; through Christ who bears in love his wounds eternally. **Amen.**

3. A Collect For Strength and Courage

○ God of love and justice, our protector: Let your light fill every dark, scared, lonely, and weary place. Give us strength and courage to love and serve those in need as we await your final and complete justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. A Collect For Generosity

○ God, our eternal home and resting place, open our senses to your lavish hospitality, so that we may not worry and hold back our own generosity, that we may see how truly rich we are in all things through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5. A Collect For Community

○ Lord, you who created humans in your image and called us good: be with us, your beloved children, as we wander this world so that no man, woman, or child would feel alone but know ourselves as your wonderful creation through Jesus Christ who came and wandered this world as a human himself. **Amen.**

6. A Collect For Strength and Courage

O God of eternal light, you who breathe life into every person, who knows and understands the terror that comes when we face agents of the evil one, you who never abandons us: Display your unending glory by giving us grace to welcome the asylum seeker well, to be a comforting community for them, and to show them your light. Thank you for your loving eternal grace in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

7. A Collect For Those Who Must Flee

O merciful God, you who came and dwelt among us as a babe, being born in a stable and fleeing with your earthly parents from your home, be present with and comfort those who likewise are forced to leave what they know and go where they do not know, because you are gracious and loving and full of mercy. We pray this in the name of Jesus of Bethlehem, Jesus of Egypt, Jesus of Nazareth. **Amen.**

8. A Collect For Those Driven From Their Homes

Ever close, ever present Father, who is and who is always near, save and preserve us from all fear and death that we may have hearts to help all your children who are driven from their homes, through your son Jesus Christ, whose love binds us, by the Holy Spirit, within your Holy Family forever. **Amen.**

9. A Collect For the Traumatized

God of the terrorized and traumatized, who weeps with the harassed and helpless, we ask you to command peace in our violence, calm in our fury, and homecoming for the castaway. For the sake of your love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns. **Amen.**

10. A Collect For Reconciliation

O God, Blessed Community in perfect unity and love, you who made one body of Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, rich and poor, strong and weak: Open our hearts and hands to the other. Open our minds and eyes to the barriers we place in the way of unity and love, that we may be your church. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

11. A Collect For Oppressors

O Lord, you who love your enemies perfectly: Free the oppressor from the bond of satan, that we may once again be one family created in your image, and destroy all systems of evil which attempt to strip dignity from the other that we may live freely in love and peace to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

12. A Collect For Those Without Shelter

O Mighty God, the divine advocate and keeper: Watch over and protect those who have no shelter, that they may feel protected, guided, and cherished; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

13. A Collect For Renewal

O Lord, you who enter into exile with us, mourn with us, and weep with us over the loss of our homes, our familiarity, our people. Send us the Comforter that we may be strengthened by the blood of the Lamb, renewed by the word of the Lord, and filled with power to announce your kingdom wherever we may find ourselves for the sake of our savior your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more. **Amen.**

14. A Collect For Safe Harbor

Almighty God of eternal justice, provide a harbor of compassion and security for the refugee fleeing from persecution, so that the world may know your infinite love and hospitality, through Jesus Christ who suffered for all people. **Amen.**

15. A Collect For Justice

O God, you are our refuge, a haven in the storm, the tower to which we flee. As you provided a safe haven for the Christ child and family when they fled from certain death, we ask not for personal gain, but that your kingdom would be known on the earth and prevail over injustice. God, our refuge, you hear our prayers. We thank you and praise you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

4 Collects for Advent

First Sunday of Advent *(December 1, 2019)*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent *(December 8, 2019)*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation, give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent *(December 15, 2019)*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent *(December 22, 2019)*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself: who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**