

## **KIRKEBØN / PRAYERS**

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to be a light in our darkness. May your light overcome all darkness in the world around us and in our own hearts, and may we trust in the truth of your promise that whoever believes in you will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those who have been forced to leave their homes because they fear for their lives and have no one to protect them. We pray for all refugees, for those in prison, and for those whose application for asylum have been rejected and who face deportation and an unknown future. At this time of ongoing civil war in Syria and conflicts in the region our thoughts go especially to the Christians and other minorities in the Middle East, Marocco and Egypt.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

We remember all those who lost their lives at the borders of Europe, and whose tracks have disappeared in the sea, the desert or on impassable mountain paths. We pray for all who have lost a father, a mother, a son, a daughter or other family member. We pray for all who grieve for those whose lives were lost in the waves of the Mediterranean or the Aegean Sea because they were looking for security and a better life in Europe. We remember the Rohingyas who had to flee their homes. We pray for courage not to be silent and look away but to be a voice for all those who have no voice.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all world leaders and governments that you will give them the courage and the desire to protect refugees, act justly and work for peace. Increase their awareness of the value of each human being and keep their conscience awake. We pray for our own country, for the Queen, for our Parliament and government. We ask that you will give our politicians the courage to think through and take upon themselves the responsibility which we have for the world's refugees.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all refugees and displaced people that there will be countries and people who are willing to receive them. We pray for those who have come to our country. We pray for the children that there may still be light in their eyes. We pray for the adults that they may be able to set up safe homes for their families. We pray for the old people that they may be treated with dignity and respect. We pray for those who have got permission to stay that their life here may be fruitful, bringing joy and fulfilment to them and to us all. We pray for all refugees and asylum-seekers in the world. Thank you for entrusting into our hands people who remind us of our own fragility and dependence on you in all things.

*All: Amen.*

## **COMMITMENT**

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all your peoples, in the cause of peace, for the relief of fear and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

*December 2017*