



*do justice • love tenderly • walk humbly with God* Micah 6:8

**January 8, 2025**

We begin all of our prayer in the presence of our loving Creator; because we are all created in the very image and likeness of God!

**As a Christian community, we know this:**

**We must welcome migrants, refugees, & asylum seekers.**

**Daily reflection:**

*(Jimmy Carter, leader/humanitarian)*

Tomorrow, our nation pays its final respects to President Jimmy Carter. While president, he was charged with enforcing U.S. immigration laws. However, in 1978 thousands of refugees were fleeing Viet Nam for their very lives. Carter ordered U.S. ships to rescue refugees at sea. *“We are prepared to act with the compassion that has traditionally characterized the United States when confronted with such situations of human crisis. Thousands of human lives are at stake.”*

In 1980, he signed the Refugee Act for re-settlement here. Many current U.S. citizens owe their lives and well-being to those re-settlement programs.

**Daily decision for action...**

It takes courage to stand up to popular resentments and to do what is right. We are not perfect, but we can still do what is right, we can still respect each person’s dignity. Do we have the courage to speak up for refugees and migrants when those around us speak with derision and condemnation?

**Intercessions/ our prayer for our world:**

For Christians everywhere, that we might find light, peace, and hope so we can be a star to guide people to Christ.

For a swift end to all war and conflict, and for safety for all who flee violence.

For those who are threatened by rulers of nations, may they find a path of safety and a place to call home.

For all who are unhoused and anyone who suffers the effects of severe weather, may they find safety and warmth.

**Blessing:** *(the prayer of Aaron upon the people: Num. 6:23b–26)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

*And we say together with all of the people of God:*

**Amen!**