

The Immigrants' Creed

From "The Book of Common Worship", 2018 Edition

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger, and returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power, who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly. But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it, who speak the same language and have the same purpose. I believe that the communion of the saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal, and in reconciliation, which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

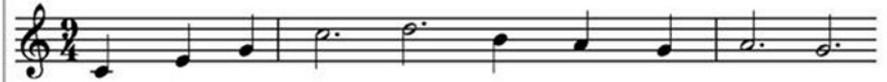
Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal in which no one will be an immigrant but all will be citizens of God's kingdom, which will never end.

Amen.

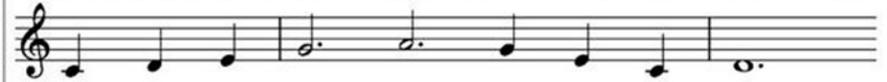
Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010

Traditional Gaelic Melody



1. A - bra-ham jour - neyed to a new coun - try;
2. Ma - ry and Jo - seph feared He - rod's or - der;
3. Some heard the pro - mise— God's hand would bless them!
4. Did they know hard - ship? Did they know dan - ger?
5. God, our own fam - ilies came here from far lands;



Sa - rah went with him jour - ney - ing too.
Sol - diers were com - ing! They had to flee.
Some fled from hun - ger, fa - mine and pain.
Who shared a home or gave them some bread?
We have been stran - gers, "a - li - ens" too.



Slaves down in E - gypt fled Pha - raoh's ar - my;
Tak - ing young Je - sus, they crossed the bor - der;
Some left a place where oth - ers op - pressed them;
Who reached a hand to wel - come the stran - ger?
May we reach out and of - fer a wel - come



Ruth left the home and peo - ple she knew.
So was our Lord a young re - fu - gee.
All trust - ed God and start - ed a - gain.
Who saw their fear and gave hope in - stead?
As we have all been wel - comed by you.

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Biblical references: Genesis 12, Ruth 1; Matthew 2:13-16, 25:31-46;
Hebrews 13:2; Leviticus 19:18, 33-34



Prayer for Immigrants

Dear Jesus,

Our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey. You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit. Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us. In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence, Let us see your Spirit. In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables, Let us see your Spirit. In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family, Let us see your Spirit. In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world, Let us see your Spirit. Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present. Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring as well: the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity. This is the help you have sent: we are not alone. We are together on the journey, and for this we give you thanks.

Amen.

<http://files.www.iwj.org/resources/a-prayer-for-immigrants/>

[CollectedPrayers4Imm4.131.pdf](#)

Litany for Refugees (lirs.org)

Leader: Mighty Lord, as you guided the Israelites through the wilderness

People: **Be a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day for refugees in search of new hope and new life.**

As you brought the Israelites out of bondage to freedom,

bring refugees out of persecution to safety.

As you protected the Israelites through 40 years in the desert,

Protect those who languish for years in refugee camps.

Wipe away their tears of sorrow,

That their mourning may give way to joyous hope.

Put an end to warfare and tyranny,

That some may return home without fear of violence.

Open the doors of safer nations,

That some may find new homes in new lands.

Rebuild their lives,

That they might enjoy the fruit of labors in peace.

Restore their material goods,

That they might sustain their families in prosperity.

Revive their hope,

That they might face a future with promise

Shine your grace upon them,

That they might know your love.

Strengthen their bonds of friendship and family,

That they might serve one another with encouraging love.

Inspire your churches to welcome the stranger,

That together we might build communities of hope where strangers become neighbors and friends, and brothers and sisters. Amen.