

IMMIGRANTS
are a
BLESSING
NOT A BURDEN

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IMMIGRANTS ARE A BLESSING LITANY

(A leader, or group of leaders, reads the unbolded text; the congregation reads the bold text in response.)

Abraham and Sarah did not know whether their visitors meant harm or good; still they opened their tent in welcome, and they were blessed. From the stranger, we hear the good news of God's covenant love.

We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.

Boaz saw in Ruth not a project but a partner. From the stranger, we are given the lineage of Christ.

We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.

In Jesus' parable, a man lay dying on the Jericho road until a despised Samaritan came to his aid, sharing his oil and wine and providing for the man's care and healing. From the stranger, we receive help and healing.

We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.

When the people of Israel were strangers in Egypt, only as valuable as the bricks they produced for Pharaoh's economy, God heard their cry and saved them. When we are strangers, we come to know the God who frees us.

We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.

Christ hides in the face of the stranger, reminding us, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." In the stranger, we can experience the presence of Christ.

We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.

We are called in Scripture, again and again, to welcome the stranger and the many blessings that the stranger may bring.

For the immigrant, the refugee, the one we do not know, we give our thanks and praise. The family of God is worshipping you in many languages, and following you in many cultures, all over the world. But the diversity of the family of God has also come into this community. May we receive the blessings you bring us, Lord, through the gift of the stranger.