

Prayers for Refugee Week 2025

Theme: 'Community as superpower'

Traditional

Heavenly Father,
You have embraced us with your love
And welcomed us into fellowship.

Help us, as a church family
Drawn together by you,
To be shaped by your love
And to reflect it
As we welcome new neighbours
Into our communities.

May we stand together
With neighbours new and old,
In joy and sorrow,
Delighting in each other's gifts,
Learning from each other's experiences,
And bearing each other's burdens.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Forms a community of perfect love.

Amen

Modern

Heavenly Father,

We thank you that you have set us in this community of faith, bringing us together by your grace to be embraced in your love. We thank you for each member of our fellowship and for the way that the different gifts you give us create a rich diversity within it, helping us better to understand and serve you, and to understand and serve the wider community around us.

We thank you for our wider community – for neighbours new and old, for the gifts and experiences each person brings and for all the things that bind us together. We thank you especially during this Refugee Week for new neighbours who have come seeking sanctuary and whose presence enriches us all.

We thank you for the times when our church community and our wider community create beauty and hope – for events that gather us together, and for the daily interactions which build up a sense of belonging. We ask your forgiveness for the times when we don't value each other as we should and are unkind or unhelpful to each other. Help us to come together in love and understanding, so that we can share each other's joys and sorrows, come to know each other's traditions, and bear each other's burdens.

We lament all the different situations in which communities fracture, causing pain and suffering to people within them. We pray for communities that are currently experiencing armed conflict, oppression, or persecution, asking for your healing in each place, so that righteousness and mercy, justice and peace may flourish.

We pray for our nation and its government. We pray that local, county, and national political leaders will do all that they can to build up the common good. During this Refugee Week, we pray especially that people making and implementing immigration policies will recognise the dignity and rights of each person made in your image. We pray that policy and practice will foster an environment where every person is valued and respected, where people seeking safety can find it, and where communities of sanctuary can grow.

We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.