



## Prayers for

### Advent for Afghans: Welcoming our Newest Neighbors

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on our Allies who have fled Afghanistan in fear and danger. Bless Episcopal Migration Ministries, the Minnesota Council of Churches and all those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide all your people towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Adapted from: Church of England Common Worship*

Gracious and Loving God we pray for our allies who have fled Afghanistan. For all those who see “home” and all it means disappear behind them; For all those who are anxiously hoping to see a home in the days ahead of them; May the image of the Holy Family fleeing oppression stay with us as we enter each new day, and stay with us each night as we are blessed with returning to a home. May we also be blessed with compassion for our newest neighbors as we help to welcome them home.

*Adapted from Jane Deren, 2007*

God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and your peace to be with our Afghan Allies. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support of these our newest neighbors. Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and bearers of hope. Grant us all strength and courage. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

*Prayer from Church of the Mediator, Allentown, PA, Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, Adapted*

Holy One of Bethlehem, from your earliest days you knew the threat of death, the terror of flight, and the pain of exile. Today we know that our allies from Afghanistan have fled for their own lives and for their children. Fill our hearts and minds with understanding and compassion for your children, who are forced by persecution and fear to flee their homes. Remind us that each number is a name, each statistic a person - Your child, your beloved. Strengthen our resolve; stir in us a spirit of agency and action. For you have blessed each of us with gifts to be shared in love for all you have create. Grant that we would listen for your call. In Your Holy Name we pray, **Amen.**

*From the EMM website, adapted.*