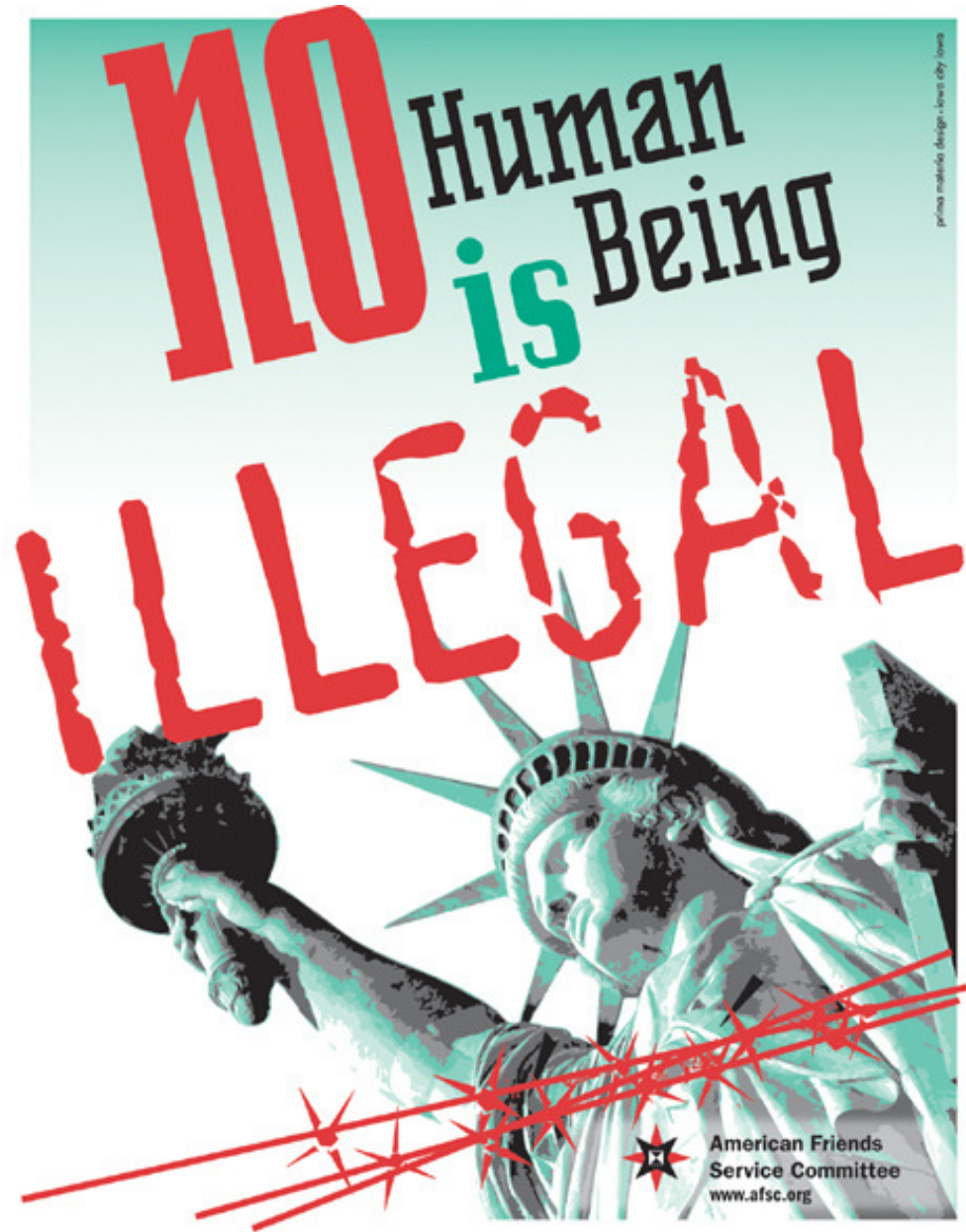


*Christ the King Lutheran Church
Vigil, Elizabeth Detention Center*



Gathering

Leader: Let us pray...

All: O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Christ Jesus may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn “To be your presence” ELW 546

Collect

Leader: Let us pray...

All: O God, your Son came among us to serve and not to be served, and to give his life for the life of the world. Lead us by his love to serve all those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary, through Christ Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Leviticus 19:9-10; 33-34.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. ³³When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Christ Jesus our Savior.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn “Christ be our Light” ELW 715

Leader: For the homeless and the cosseted

All: May our homes be simple, warm and welcoming.

Leader: For the vibrant and the dying

All: May we all die to live.

Leader: We remember especially those detained in this building, the Elizabeth Detention Center, and also Essex County Correctional Center at Delaney Hall in Newark, that they may be handled in a system and treated in a way that reflects your compassion, O God. We pray that they be recipients of the justice that is your will, the hope that is your inspiration, and the love and security that is your comfort. We offer these our prayers to you in Christ Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Recent Events

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray...

All: O God, You have declared what is right: to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Bless judges and courts, juries and law officers throughout our land. Guard them from retribution and from corruption. Give them the spirit of wisdom, that they may perceive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. We pray in the name of the one who will come to be our judge, your Son, Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Hymn "Let justice flow like streams" ELW 717

³⁴The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 24:17-21

You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matthew 2:13-15

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Why We Are HerePrayers of Intercession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...O God, we pray for your Creation, that it exists in a way that reflects your will. We pray for the whole people of God, that we may live rightly with one another, and rightly with you and, in such living, we serve as agents of your will. We pray for the hungry and the overfed.

All: May we have enough.

Leader: For the mourners and the mockers

All: May we laugh together.

Leader: For the victims and the oppressors

All: May we share power wisely.

Leader: For the peacemakers and the warmongers

All: May clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony.

Leader: For the silenced and the propagandists

All: May we speak our own words in truth.

Leader: For the unemployed and the overworked

All: May our impress on the earth be kindly and creative.

Leader: For the troubled and the sleek

All: May we live together as wounded healers.