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December 22, 2018

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### Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for DACA recipients who are worried and uncertain about their future. May they continue to be welcomed in the land they call home.

### Reading

You ask: “Why is not the son charged with the guilt of his father?” Because the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to observe all my statutes. .... The son shall not be charged with the guilt of his father, nor shall the father be charged with the guilt of his son. Justice belongs to the just, and wickedness to the wicked. But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live. He shall not die! None of the crimes he has committed shall be remembered against him; he shall live because of the justice he has shown. – *Ezekiel 18:19-22*

### Prayer

Who will listen to the cries of the poor –  
To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?  
***Who will listen if we don't?***

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –  
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?  
***Who will speak if we don't?***

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God's love as they seek to make a home with us?  
***Who will see Christ if we don't?***

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”  
***Who will be Love if we aren't?***

### Story (Optional)

#### ***Elena from Mexico***

Elena's family moved to the United States from a small town outside of Mexico City when she was 7. They had few possessions, just a couple changes of clothes and a few hundred dollars. Knowing what

her parents sacrificed to provide her and her siblings with a better life, Elena applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, as soon as she could. She knew it was her best chance to help her family. Even though DACA allowed her to study psychology and Spanish at the University of



Kentucky, Elena was not satisfied, knowing that others did not have the same opportunities. She decided to pursue a career that allows her to help her neighbors also find their footing in the U.S. Elena became a volunteer at Maxwell Street Legal Clinic in Lexington, Kentucky. The staff describes her as an “all-star” with an enviable range of talents. Her dedication led her to become a part-time legal assistant with Maxwell Street and a law student at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. Elena didn’t arrive in Lexington under the most favorable circumstances, but those experiences haven’t stopped her from achieving her dreams while helping the rest of her community do the same. (Source: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/posadas-EN.pdf>)

### Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

### Suggested Action

Today, smile and greet everyone you meet to practice being a welcoming presence to your neighbors.

### Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit’s desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

Move us to new frontiers as we remember how you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Remind us of Blessed Theresa and all those who gave all they had so that the immigrants in America might have better lives. Move us to new frontiers, for we are all migrants journeying with you and one another toward your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.