



Lighting the Candles: A Journey with Black Migrants

Epiphany: Shining a Path Towards a More Anti-Racist Future

Scripture: *Arise, shine; your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Though darkness covers the earth...on you the Lord will dawn, and over you God's glory will be seen."* (Isaiah 60: 1-2)

Reflection: Epiphany celebrates the revelation to the whole world that the Christ, the word of God, light for the world, has been made flesh and dwells among us still. It is a light that no darkness can extinguish, not fear; not hatred; not even our original sin of racism. The feast of the Magi, the feast of the revelation of the light, reminds us of our call to be children of the light, to open our hearts to the love of God that is universal; to embrace the call to welcome God's children no matter their race, or creed or national origin. Christ's light shines in and through each and every one of us. As we celebrate this epiphany let us pray for the grace to banish the darkness of systemic racism and welcome into our hearts and our communities those too often denied a place at our table.

Question: *What will it take to for us to welcome the light of Christ and banish the darkness of systemic racism?*



Story: Mitsu, born and raised in Haiti, came to the U.S. on a student visa to attend college. During the course of her studies, Haiti was hit with a 7.0-magnitude earthquake, which devastated the country. The U.S. government designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), an authorized immigration status that allows individuals to remain lawfully in the U.S. until it is safe to return. Mitsu now works as a physician assistant, allowing her to help financially support her parents back in Haiti.

With the TPS designation for Haiti set to expire in January 2021 Mitsu's future is uncertain, Mitsu speaks to her parents frequently of conditions in Haiti and knows that, "Haiti is nowhere near in a condition to support its current residents let alone receive citizens currently living abroad." Mitsu hopes that Congress will take action and find a long-term solution for Haitian TPS recipients. "We have done everything the right way yet, still find ourselves entangled within the immigration debate." (Mitsu's story from: [Justice for Immigrants](#).)

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Actions:

- Protect TPS recipients and DACA holders by [taking action here](#) to contact Congress.
- The House of Representatives has passed the Dream and Promise Act ([H.R. 6](#)), which would permanently protect TPS and Dream holders. It is time for the Senate to do the same. Ask your U.S. Senator to Support [S. 874](#), which, like the Dream Act and [H.R. 6](#), would provide critical permanent legal protection to DACA recipients, TPS recipients, and DED holders who are living in a state of uncertainty and fear.
- Share this statement from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, [Black Immigrant Lives Matter](#), decrying the failure of our government to treat Black immigrants with dignity and respect and proclaiming, “Black Lives Matter.”

Prayer:

You are the God who bears the brunt of the question, “Why didn’t you stay where you belong?” You are the God who feels our embarrassment when we hear, “Keep your distance foreigner, you with your different-colored skin and your strange-sounding speech, with your culture, food, religion, and clothing that are inferior to my own.” You are the God who walks alongside us; works alongside us; struggles for justice alongside us as we make our way in a land where we are not always welcome. Loving God, grace us with understanding, with Epiphany. Help us to remember that your light shines in us all. Hear our prayers for racial justice and necessary immigration reform. Light our way as we walk the path toward your beloved community. Amen. (Adapted from a [prayer](#) by Jon Pedigo)

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Advent Resources by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition’s “Holy Days & Holidays” Team.

For more resources, go to: <https://bit.ly/IICReligiousResources>

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