



Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance of Santa Barbara “Love Your Neighbor: Welcome the Stranger” Weekend

www.loveyourneighborsb.org

Thank you for your interest in participating in Love Your Neighbor Weekend 2021!

Love Your Neighbor Weekend is a chance for faith communities across Santa Barbara County to re-commit to our sacred duty of loving our immigrant neighbors and “welcoming the strangers” in our midst. We want to take the issue of immigration out of the political realm and into the spiritual, human realm by helping our congregations to recognize that our faith calls us all to love and care for our neighbors.

Below you will find a host of resources and links to songs, prayers, poems, sacred texts, and liturgies about loving our immigrant neighbors. Please feel free to choose the resource(s) that works best for your congregation’s worship service.

We hope that you find these resources meaningful and useful for your congregation!

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THE FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA is a nonprofit community foundation that supports organizations working for social, economic, environmental & political change in Santa Barbara County. This includes grassroots organizing against discrimination of all kinds, supporting the rights & dignity of working people, promoting community self-determination, organizing for peace and nonviolence, working to improve the quality of our environment, and building cross-issue/cross-constituency coalitions and alliances. THE FUND raises money through donations of all sizes in order to provide grants and technical assistance. Since its founding in 1980, THE FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA has awarded more than \$5 million to over 1,000 projects. To learn more about THE FUND visit www.fundforsantabarbara.org.



Love Your Neighbor Weekend is co-sponsored by the Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance of Santa Barbara, a branch of Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice Santa Barbara. The Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance (ISA) was formed in 2017 in response to the anti-immigrant rhetoric being shared on a national and local level. The ISA's mission is to work to ensure respect for the dignity, safety, and human rights of all people, while lawfully resisting unjust policies and practices that target immigrants.

Love Your Neighbor Weekend is also co-sponsored by Immigrant Hope Santa Barbara, the Immigrant Legal Defense Center of SB County, and IMPORTA SB. All three of these agencies provide vital legal services to members of the immigrant community in Santa Barbara.

Thursday, March 4 - Sunday, March 7: Faith communities across SB County will offer songs, prayers, sacred texts, poems, and more at their regular worship services to acknowledge our collective mandate to care for our immigrant neighbors. For a complete list of participating faith communities, please visit www.loveyourneighborsb.org/schedule.

Thursday, March 11 @ 7pm - 8:30pm: "What's Next?" Virtual panel discussion with Alexia Salvatierra, faith-based organizer and former director of CLUE LA, Frank Rodriguez, coordinator of the 805 Immigrant coalition, and more. We will discuss how we can support the immigrant rights movement on a local and national level in 2021 and beyond. RSVP at <https://isasbwhatsnext.eventbrite.com>.

Saturday, March 13 @ 7pm: "Movie Night: Stories from our Undocumented Neighbors" The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with representatives from Immigrant Hope Santa Barbara, the Immigrant Legal Defense Center of Santa Barbara County, and IMPORTA Santa Barbara. RSVP at <https://isasbmovienight.eventbrite.com>

...and more! Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward.

We hope you'll join us as we re-commit to our sacred duty of loving our neighbors and "welcoming the strangers" into our midst.

Suggested Worship Resources for “Love Your Neighbor: Welcome the Stranger” Weekend

Mar. 4 – Mar 7, 2021

A Prayer for Love Your Neighbor Weekend:

(Please feel free to adapt this prayer to your own faith tradition, knowing that this will be shared in diverse worship services across the city)

This weekend we join with many communities of faith around our city to remember the timeless call to love our neighbor.

G-d¹ of Unshakeable Love, Spirit of Peace and Possibility,

In a world torn apart by fear and suspicion,

Teach us to love our neighbors as if they were our own family, for indeed we are one human family, united in our desire to live in peace and safety.

Teach us to love our neighbors, whether we speak different languages or were born in different places, for all people long for a kind word, a safe home, and a better life for their children.

Teach us to love our neighbors, remembering that many of our ancestors came from distant lands, and survived only because someone extended them grace and goodwill. In these troubled times, it is up to us to be the ones who help each other survive.

Let us remember that the person who lives beside us, who knocks on our door in the guise of a stranger, is also made in the image of the holy. When we welcome and make a place for them, we welcome and make a place for You.

G-d of Justice and Gentleness,

Strengthen us as we seek to embody the spirit of Love in this world.

May we always turn towards hope instead of despair,

May we always turn towards love instead of hate,

May we always turn towards courage instead of fear,

As we work to build a more beloved world.

Amen.

¹ “G-d” is used in respect to the Jewish tradition of not writing out the full name of the Holy.

Hymns and Songs

- [Abraham Journeyed to a New Country](#), by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for the National Council of Churches
- [Would You Harbor Me? \(YouTube\) \(lyrics\) \(arrangement\)](#), by Sweet Honey in the Rock
- [Marching into the Light \(Marchando hacia la Luz\) \(YouTube\)](#), by Andres Useche

Scripture Readings

"When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall do them no wrong, the strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as natives among you, and you love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

—*Leviticus 19:33-34*

"If your brother becomes impoverished and his means falter in your proximity, you shall strengthen him—stranger or resident—so that he can live with you."

—*Leviticus 25:35*

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and those who do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts."

—*Malachi 3:5*

"[Lord,] when did we see you a stranger and invite you in?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

—*Matthew 25: 38, 40*

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

—*Hebrews 13:2*

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

—*Galatians 5:13-14*

"...you are no longer strangers and sojourners but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

—*Ephesians 2:11-21*

"And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kind and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God. Let them forgive and show indulgence."

—*Qur'an 24:22*

"And do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the needy, and the neighbour from among your own people, and the neighbor who is a stranger, and the friend by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom you rightfully possess. Verily, God does not love any of those who, full of self-conceit, act in a boastful manner..."

—*An-Nisa* 4:36

"Those who believed and adopted exile and fought for the Faith, with their property and their persons, in the cause of Allah, as well as those who gave (them) asylum and aid—these are (all) friends and protectors, one of another."

—*Al Anfal* 8:72

Poems

- [The New Colossus](#), by Emma Lazarus
- [Patriot](#), by Alice Walker
- [The Lesson \(first stanza\)](#), by W. H. Auden
- [Bread and Roses](#), by James Oppenheim
- [La Ruta de Mujeres](#), by Rev. Delle McCormick
- [Mi Tribu/ My Tribe](#), by Alberto Blanco (Translation by James Nolan)

Prayers

- [Prayer to End Poverty](#) (Catholic)
- [Immigration Prayer](#) (UCC)
- [Prayer for Immigrants](#) (Catholic)
- [Prayer for Immigrants](#) (PDF), by Rev. Jessica Vazquez Torres of [Interfaith Worker Justice](#)
- [An Immigrant Prayer](#) (Catholic)
- [Prayer of the Farm Workers' Struggle](#), by Cesar Chavez
- [Blessing Prayer](#), from [National Farm Worker Ministry](#)
- [Prayer for Migrants](#), by Jane Deren (2007)
- [Celebrating Immigrants: An Interfaith Service](#) (PDF), [Interfaith Worker Justice](#) (3 pages)
- [Worship Resources from National Farm Worker Justice Ministry](#)
- [Worship Resources from the Mennonite Central Committee](#)

Practices / Liturgies

- [Interfaith Asylum Reflections](#)
- [The Way of Asylum – Stations of the Cross](#)
- [DACA Devotions for Lent](#)

Prayers of the People

(adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Lindi Ramsden, with help from Amy Moses-Lagos and passages from A Litany of Light)

For those who leave loved ones behind to walk our deserts in search of a new life,

May the light of love illumine their path.

All: May our prayers be heard.

For migrants who hide in fear, who toil in weariness, who are unable to enter college or develop their full potential,

May the light of hope lift their spirits in dark days.

All: May our prayers be heard

For victims of crime who are too afraid to come forward, fearful that they themselves will be placed in deportation proceedings,

May the light of solidarity help to heal wounds to body and spirit.

All: May our prayers be heard.

For those who wait for work on street corners and parking lots,

May the light of God's mercy uphold them.

All: May our prayers be heard.

For the tens of thousands of immigrants who have been deported in California,

May the light of their stories illuminate the necessity for change.

All: May our prayers be heard.

For those who work in solidarity with immigrants, whether it is placing water in the desert, providing legal representation, documenting abuse, or working for justice,

May the light of God's compassion be with us all.

All: May our prayers be heard.

(Pause to invite people to offer up their own prayers and respond with -

All: May our prayers be heard.)

We hold in our prayers all the families who have been separated and all the children who are caught in the middle. We pray for their health, well-being and safety.

May love be our goal and our guide.

All: May our prayers be heard. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRAVELERS / ORACION PARA LOS VIAJEROS

By the Rev. [Angela Herrera](#)

In English

This is a prayer for all the travelers.
For the ones who start out in beauty,
who fall from grace,
who step gingerly,
looking for the way back.
And for those who are born into the margins,
who travel from one liminal space to another,
crossing boundaries in search of center.

This is a prayer for the ones whose births
are a passing from darkness to darkness,
who all their lives are drawn toward the light,
and keep moving,
and for those whose journeys
are a winding road that begins
and ends in the same place,
though only when the journey is completed
do they finally know where they are.

For all the travelers, young and old,
aching and joyful,
weary and full of life;
the ones who are here, and the ones who are not here;
the ones who are like you (and they're all like you)
and the ones who are different (for in some ways, we each travel alone).

This is a prayer for traveling mercies,
And surefootedness,
for clear vision,

for bread
for your body and spirit,
for water,
for your safe arrival
and for everyone you see along the way.

En Español

Esta oración es para todos los viajeros.
Para los que comienzan en la belleza
y caen de la gracia,
quienes caminan tímidamente,
buscando la manera de volver.
Y para los que nacen en los márgenes,
viajando de un lugar liminal a otro,
cruzando fronteras
en busca del centro.

Es una oración para aquellos cuyo nacimiento
es el paso de oscuridad a oscuridad,
aquellos que se sienten atraídos por la luz,
y avanzan hacia ella.
Y para aquellos cuyas jornadas
son un camino sinuoso
que comienza y termina en el mismo lugar,
aunque sólo al terminar,
sabrán por fin donde están.

Para todos los viajeros,
jóvenes y viejos,
dolientes y alegres,
cansados y llenos de vida;
los presentes y los ausentes,
los que son como tú (y todos son como tú)
y los que son distintos (porque de alguna manera
todos viajamos solos).

Esta es una oración por la misericordia,
para que andes con pie firme,

y visión clara;
por el pan para tu cuerpo y tu espíritu,
por el agua;
para que llegues seguro,
y para todos aquellos que encuentres
en el camino.

For more resources and a schedule of events, visit
www.loveyourneighborsb.org