

Monthly prayer vigil, Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, DH8 6QY

Opening Prayer

As we recount the centuries of human history,
We pray that one day bondage will lead to freedom;
We pray that indifference will give way to mercy;
We pray that hatred will turn to compassion, and fear turn to hope.

We pray that one day, nations will defy history and proclaim in one voice:
Never again will terror-stricken exiles face angry waters alone;
Never again will vulnerable victims be locked behind barbed wire;
Never again will desperate refugees be turned away at the borders of freedom. And
we vow...

Until that day arrives, we will be the miracle that parts the angry seas for today's
refugees. We will take it upon ourselves to lead the mixed multitude to dry land, and
we will bring them to a place of redemption.

*Rabbi Marla J. Feldman is Executive Director, Women of Reform Judaism (This is a
resource from the Religious Action Centre of Reform Judaism USA)*

Reading

'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your
children.' Luke 23, 28

Jesus,
you have heard our tears: the tears women have shed in silence
because we were too afraid to be heard;
the tears women have held back
thinking we deserved the violence;
the tears we have not held back
but were not comforted;
the tears women have wept alone
because we would not ask to be held;
the tears women weep together
because our sisters cannot feed their children;
because our sisters live in fear;
because the earth herself is threatened.

So we weep.

Janet Morley, Christian Aid

Silence

Sometimes there are no words to express the pain of injustice done to these women
detained already here or will be detained here soon. Sometimes there are no words
of consolation. Let silence speak. Let silence help us to dissolve the barriers
between us and them; it is only we. Let silence bring us together. Let silence reach

through and over the walls and barriers. Let silence be the way love travels. May the God of love, the God who sees us as one speak through the silence. We invite you to be silent for 15 minutes.

Prayer

In silence
we hear God's whisper
moving like a feather
through our being,
stroking and transforming
timid souls into
fiery passion
for justice

Edwina Gateley, A Mystical Heart

Closing prayer

Merciful God and Father of all,
wake us from the slumber of indifference,
open our eyes to their suffering,
and free us from the insensitivity
born of worldly comfort
and self-centredness.
Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals,
to see that those who come to our shores
are our brothers and sisters.
May we share with them
the blessings we have received from your hand,
and recognize that together,
as one human family,
we are all immigrants,
journeying in hope to you,
our true home,
where every tear will be wiped away,
where we will be at peace
and safe in your embrace.

Pope Francis